

Empress Dowager Cixi liked nothing more than popping off to the western outskirts of Beijing.

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A gas explosion traps 21 miners underground with little chance of survival.

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A 53-year-old runs a carving museum and a hospice.

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## Mayor Seeks Influx of New Technology

By Sun Ming  
/Feng Yihua

More important than all the contracts signed, says the mayor, is the exposition's success in bringing cutting-edge technology to the city.

"The CBHT is no ordinary expo," Mayor Liu told *Beijing Today* before the opening of the fifth China Beijing International Expo (CBHT), which began yesterday.

"As an international platform, this event draws technologies, investment, talented persons and new ideas from around the world and strongly influences the economy of Beijing," said Liu, chairman of the expo organizing committee.

The previous four sessions have attracted representatives from more than 60 countries and regions and 10,000 companies, with total contracts worth \$15.2 billion.

Liu stressed although earlier expos were profitable, this year's event aims at demonstrating and commercializing Beijing's science and high-tech achievements.

Liu said the CBHT is an effective engine to expand the city economy.

"This expo affirms Beijing's importance as a base for scientific innovation, fuels the construction of Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park and provides a platform for other cities and provinces in China to communicate with international companies and governments," he said.

"In the past, the government was the sole sponsor of this event, but it will not play such a major role this year."

The name of this year's event has been changed to the China Beijing International Expo from the previous name, China Beijing International High-tech Week, used from 1998 to 2001.



Mayor Liu Qi

Photo by Cheng Tieliang

## Most Beautiful Woman in Whole World Wows Shoppers, Orphans

By Chen Ying

She is 19, a computer science student and was recently appointed ambassador of the Nigeria national football team.

She is also the first Miss World to come to China. Miss World 2001 finished off her three-day visit to the capital at a charity party Wednesday evening.

Agbani Darego was invited by China Charity Federation to participate in a series of activities



Photo by Cui Jun

to raise money for orphans and disabled children.

Miss Nigeria also flew to Hainan Province last weekend where she visited orphans at the Sanya Children Welfare Center.

Her boss Julia Morley, chairwoman and chief executive of the Miss World Organization, inspected facilities available for hosting the 2003 Miss World Pageant.

The Sogo Department Store in Xuanwumen also managed to stick her on a first-floor stage on Tuesday afternoon in front of a crowd of hundreds where Darego urged customers to do something to help the poor.

# Inalienable Province Attends China Expo

By Xiao Rong

An exhibition of Taiwan high-tech excellence debuted at the China Beijing International High-tech Expo, which opened yesterday.

Besides the exhibition, a delegation of about 250 representatives of high-tech companies from the province also participated in the expo. It's the first time in the Beijing High-tech Expo's history that Taiwan has organized such a delegation.

Located in the No. 1 Exhibition Hall of the China International Exhibition Center, the Taiwan High-tech Excellence Exhibition features both products and high-tech companies.

A total 15 medal winners of the 2001 Taiwan Symbol of Excellence Award have been chosen for this special tour to the capital. And the company participants focus on displaying hardware, software systems and Internet equipment.

### First attraction

First contact began as early as last April, when Beijing was preparing for the fourth session of the high-tech expo.

"We were planning to expand our business in the Chinese mainland in 2000, when we got information about the expo, at that time named Beijing High-tech week," said Frank C Huang, chairman of the Taipei Computer Association (TCA), the main promoter of the delegation.

TCA connected with the Beijing Sub-Council of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the organizing committee of the expo.

Then base two. A TCA visiting delegation flew to the city during the fourth session of the expo. Huang said that TCA was satisfied with their inspection, and decided to organize a delegation to attend the fifth session this May.

"Some of our IT companies, members of TCA, had already been cooperating with the Chinese mainland, but a lot still waits to be done to promote technology exchanges between the two sides," he told *Beijing Today*.

As a TCA division manager, Charles Shih is responsible for introducing business cooperation opportunities in the mainland to members. After TCA's visit last year, he contacted the CCPIT.

A visiting CCPIT delegation was invited to Taiwan this January for further talks.

"We have really learnt a lot from our Taiwan counterparts," said delegate Wang Peng. "Especially in the ideal of holding a successful exposition."

### History of communication

"We had been communicating a whole year before we finally decided to exhibit at the expo. A certain part of the work



The exhibiton in preparation this week. Exhibitors from Taiwan appear better at creating a lively atmosphere to display their products.

Photo by Baizi

was done by our members themselves with the help of TCA," said Shih.

About 50 of the 5,000-member TCA registered to participate in the Beijing expo. Thirty-five were chosen.

"Only when we make this exhibition on the expo successful, can more members of TCA be attracted to Beijing to make this program sustainable," said Shih.

In his opinion, the Beijing expo may attract an audience, but cannot guarantee profits or lead to the signing of contracts.

"So we are trying to promote our new technology and products by ourselves instead of just relying on the organizing committee," he said.

Most Taiwan IT industry participants invited their business partners from Zhongguan-

cun to attend the exhibition. A celebration party between the two sides was held Wednesday evening.

Compared with their Taiwan counterparts, some local exhibitors from the mainland lack product promotion consciousness. They leave most of the work to the organizers, thinking that the fame of the expo itself is enough to attract an audience, said Wang Peng.

In Shih's view, exhibitors from Taiwan are better at creating a lively atmosphere to display their products. He believed TCA, as the intermediary of the industry, has a duty to help its members build a platform to connect with consumers and exhibitors.

### Future starts here

The role of organizers in a successful exhibition, Huang

thinks, should be connecting specific exhibitors with their specific audience of potential consumers.

"Most of the expositions in the Chinese mainland tend to be governmentally guided instead of market oriented," he said. "Actually what the exhibitors want most is not just support at policy level, but practical demand on the spot," said Shih.

Huang said he believed future expos will grow increasingly professional, targeting more specific audiences as the expo earns a reputation as a global brand.

"I'm confident that the Beijing high-tech expo will run better and better. And we will continue to participate and make it a sustainable commercial cooperation between the two sides."

"Some of our IT companies, which are members of the TCA, had already been in cooperation with the Chinese mainland, but a lot still waits to be done to promote technology exchanges between the two sides," says Frank C Huang, chairman of the Taipei Computer Association.



Photo by Cui Jun

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# Fly Me to the Moon

## Chinese astronauts to tread on lunar surface by 2010

By Shan Jinliang

China will complete its first manned trip to the moon and build a base on the moon before 2010, claimed Ouyang Ziyuan, chief scientist for the moon-exploration project on May 18.

Ouyang, also an academicien of the China Academy of Sciences, dropped the news during a speech at the ongoing National Science & Technology Week held

at the Millennium Monument. He said China is "well prepared" to put together a trip to the moon.

"A group of top Chinese space technology researchers are leading the project," said Ouyang. He added that China has the funding and technology to send a person to the moon. Developing and making the spacecraft will take three to four years, during

which the moon exploration plan will also be set.

He added only a billion yuan would be sufficient for the first moon exploration plan, and he hopes China will complete two trips to the moon by 2010 and establish a base to harness the moon's mineral resources.

In the first plan, a satellite will be sent into orbit around the moon to survey its resources, he said.

In a speech delivered during the event, Wang Zhuang, deputy general designer of the Shenzhou III unmanned spacecraft, which blasted into space on March 25, said that China will send astronauts into space before 2005.

He added 12 astronauts selected from tens of thousands of candidates have already started preparations for the country's first manned space flight. China

has designed and built its own space suits and a returnable space module at a cost of tens of millions of yuan, said Wang.

Wang also explained the three phases of China's manned space flight plan: first succeeding in sending people into space; second, building a space station; and last, having spaceships that offer transport between Earth and outer space.



Photo by Qu Liyan

### Judges Ready to Drop the Hammer

By Wang Yanyan / Wang Jing / Liu Shenliang

The afternoon of May 17, the Beijing government took delivery of 15 gavels in preparation for the trial implementation of a regulation requiring the use of gavels in people's courts beginning June 1.

The regulation explicitly stipulates how gavels should be used during different stages of court hearings. Judges have to hit their gavels when opening court sessions and when calling court to order.

Judges in Shijingshan Court have started to receive training in gavel banging.

Local courts will also learn from the practices of British and American courts, but forgo the donning of powdered headpieces.

### Official Procurement Goes Transparent

By Wang Yanyan / Yuan Man

As of May 16, the Beijing government has opened its procurement activities to public supervision for the first time, in order to both normalize procurement operations and strengthen the legal system behind them.

The city government has also held a conference to select special supervisors, at which five were named. These personnel will research and formulate regulations regarding the entire process of government procurement in Beijing.

As early as 1997, the local government began to explore methods to make its procurement procedures more transparent.

According to Du Wenlan, the average annual growth rate of governmental procurement has been around 132% over the past five years. Last year, 2.483 billion yuan was spent on government purchasing, while the budget for this year is estimated at 3.5 billion yuan.

Government procurement is making up a rising proportion the city's overall budget expenses, expected to rise to 7% this year from 4.9% last year.

### Civil Police Services Reshuffled

By Pang Qingjuan

Beginning May 15, Beijing police officers are being divided into three categories to make their roles more clear and better serve the city.

A new regulation stipulates that civil police forces are to be divided into community police, public security police and internal affairs officers. All police forces have five major functions: supervision of population flow, maintenance of public security, crime prevention, information collection and providing other services for local residents.

Under the new regulation, community police are responsible for ensuring the security of residential communities, collecting information and supervising population flow and housing rental. Public security police will focus on investigating crimes and patrolling the streets. Internal affairs officers' responsibilities include supervising household registration and receiving public visits.

The policy is expected to facilitate the formation of an interlocked, dynamic social patrol network based on local police stations.

The Public Security Bureau of Beijing will establish police service centers in residential communities throughout the city, with uniform exterior designs, symbols and facilities. New public notice boards will then be put up outside of police stations.

## Market Braces for Discount Stores

By Shan Jinliang

May 15, Beijing Shoulian Commercial Group and Spain DIA Group, a subsidiary of France-based Carrefour, signed a letter of intention to open the city's first discount store.

According to the contract, the companies will set up a joint venture, Beijing DIA Shoulian Retailer Company, to open 500-700 square meter stores in residential areas throughout the city.

The discount stores will mainly sell food, at prices 10% cheaper than those at Carrefour chain stores.

May 16, Beijing DIA announced it will open 20 to 30 discount stores by the end of next year, and that it would accelerate the speed of opening stores to 50 to 60 annually in 2004. The company plans to open around 100 discount stores in two and a half years, five to ten times faster than local retailers.

"The stores will have a dramatic impact on Beijing's retail industry, just like when supermarkets came onto the scene in the 1990s," said Lu Yan, deputy director of the Beijing Commercial Commission.

An analysis of this development published in *Beijing Youth Daily* on May 17 said that the discount stores' convenient locations, low prices, and emphasis on food products will position them for a direct attack on local supermarkets, hypermarkets and convenience stores.

Beijing Wanfang Supermarket General Manager Chen Yabin said DIA's entry into China's market will have a great impact on the domestic retail industry from financial and management perspectives.

Mingpin Plaza, the first discount store in Shanghai, has received a frosty reception since opening in early November 2001. The store's daily revenues have fallen from 90,000 yuan to 55,000 yuan.

An official who requested anonymity from Carrefour said this store would not be able to match the up-to-50% price reductions foreign discount stores can offer.

## Big World Brands Land in Airport

By Shan Jinliang

The World Top Brands Street at Capital International Airport began to take clearer shape on May 18 with the opening of a Lancel duty-free shop and two other name brand stores.

Lancel's store stands in the separation hall of the airports' no. 2 terminal, near the Omega and Aigner duty free shops that opened on May 15. "Two more duty-free shops-Dunhill and Ameth-will go up in the near future," said Xuan Fei, marketing manager of Beijing Capital International Airport Duty Free Shops Co..

According to Meng Shengfu, General Manager of this company, international airports in other countries are home to duty-free shops for major international brands, and the introduction of such stores at Capital Airport will help upgrade its image.



The ailing Changchang had to be given oxygen in his last days

# Oldest Giant Panda to Be Immortalized

Changchang, 35, China's oldest known giant panda, died on Monday in Jinan, Shandong Province, and will be stuffed and mounted for future display.

The 114-kilogram male panda had been suffering from organ failure since the beginning of this month, according to the medical team at the Jinan Zoo, where he lived.

The average life expectancy for this endangered species is 25 years, Found

sick and starving in the Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve in northwestern China's Gansu Province, Changchang became an immediate star in Jinan when he arrived in the city in 1995.

Local media issued regular updates on his health after reports first came out that he had trouble eating and breathing and families flocked to the zoo to visit the ailing panda.

Beginning May 8, Changchang refused to touch a bite of his regular daily fare of three pieces of steamed bread, three liters of milk and at least 15 kilograms of bamboo leaves.

A zoo spokesperson said that an autopsy would be conducted to determine the cause of the panda's death. After being stuffed and mounted, Changchang will be returned to his home in Gansu Province. (Xinhua)

## Heritage Sites Gear up for Check

By Shan Jinliang

This year, the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization will conduct full-scale inspections on the 28 World Heritage Sites in China, and those not up to snuff will be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

To protect humanity's col-

lective heritage, the Committee inspects one designated region of the world every six years. This year it is the Asia and Pacific area's turn.

Thirty-one World Heritage Sites, none of which are in China, have been demoted to the List of World Heritage in Danger.

International Council on

Monuments and Sites (China) secretary general Guo Ni said the China Education and Science Organization will hold a professional training class for site officials to prepare for the inspection.

According to Guo, the fact that no World Heritage Site in China is on the danger list shows the effectiveness of the efforts of

local governments, but problems do lurk in the administration of these properties.

Xie Ninggao, a professor and director of the Peking University World Heritage Research Center, said the biggest challenges for most World Heritage Sites are not large crowds, but over-development and destruction of historic locations.

## China Ships off First Volunteers for Overseas Service

Five young volunteers, the first group China has sent out for overseas service, left Beijing for Laos on Wednesday.

At a farewell ceremony held by the Chinese Young Volunteers Association (CYVA) at the Great Hall of the People, the volunteers were awarded certificates and badges.

The volunteers, who are from Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Anhui and Henan, were selected from 1,000 candidates after a rigorous evaluation process.

They will stay in Laos for six months, running training courses for local people on Chinese, English and computer and

medical skills.

A CYVA spokesperson said that China and Laos agreed to cooperate through this volunteer service on March 17 this year.

The CYVA began recruiting volunteers from the public to work in Laos on March 29. Meanwhile, a registration system was set up for volunteers, an important step in China's voluntary service cause.

Thongsavanh Phomvihane, counselor at the Laotian Embassy in China, said at the ceremony that China's sending of its first volunteers to help its friendly neighbor Laos would not only strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between the

two peoples, but also contribute to world peace and development.

Individuals and companies have stepped forward to support the volunteers. Ping'an Insurance Company has provided an insurance policy worth 100,000 yuan (about 12,050 US dollars) to each volunteer.

The CYVA, established in 1994, has set up 24,000 community service stations in all Chinese provinces and regions.

By the end of February 2002, 100 million people in China had volunteered a total of 4.5 billion hours of their time to different public service projects.

(Xinhua)



## Alcatel Wins \$114 Mln GSM Contract with Jiangsu Mobile

By Xu Ying

French telecommunications-equipment maker Alcatel said Tuesday it has signed a \$114 million contract to expand the GSM network of Chinese mobile operator Jiangsu Mobile, a subsidiary of China Mobile. GSM is the Global System For Mobile Communications.

Alcatel says it will deliver its Evolium mobile infrastructure equipment via its Chinese joint venture, Shanghai Bell Alcatel Mobile Communications Systems.

The equipment will permit Jiangsu Mobile to expand its network capacity to about 8 million subscribers, or nearly half the total market in Jiangsu Province, Alcatel said.

## Toshiba Adding Computer Production Plant in China

By Xu Ying

Toshiba will build a second plant to produce portable personal computers in China, amid a growing trend for Japanese electronics makers to move operations to China.

Toshiba said in a statement last Friday that it had acquired land in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, and will set up two subsidiaries there to produce personal computers as well as carry out sales and research. Toshiba plans to produce 750,000 PCs a year from April next year.

Toshiba has more than 20 subsidiaries and affiliates in China doing business in electronics components, electrical appliances and other products. It already produces PCs at a plant in Shanghai.

Toshiba said in a statement, "China enjoys numerous advantages as a production base, and is also the world's biggest market."

All major Japanese electronics manufacturers are stepping up their business in China, where labor is cheaper than Japan and the huge domestic market is believed to hold great potential.

Toshiba plans to cooperate with universities in the area and employ Chinese engineers, another sign that China is becoming increasingly attractive for producing advanced products.

Toshiba said it hopes to have Toshiba group companies enter the Chinese market more quickly and respond better to changes in that market.

## First Russian Car Manufacturer Enters China Market

Sok Group, the third largest car manufacturer in Russia, announced Tuesday that it will launch a joint-venture factory in China to develop a car priced under 80,000 yuan aimed at ordinary Chinese families.

Sok is the first Russian car manufacturer to enter Chinese market. The company has sent an expert team to more than 20 Chinese cities for market testing and is planning to invest 200 million US dollars in the joint venture.

A Sok spokesperson said a sound economic environment and policy system in China had attracted more and more foreign business, and the great marketing potential also drew much attention from foreign car manufacturers.

Sok, known for its "Izh" and "Roslada" models, will develop new types to meet the different needs of Chinese customers. In 2001, Sok turned out 87,000 cars.

Analyst believe that the Russian car industry's entry into China's market will not lead to an overall increase in Russian exports to China, but also increase bilateral trade.

Founded in 1994, Sok holds 40 enterprises of various types employing 80,000 people.

At the International Vehicle Exhibition to be held in Beijing on June 6, Sok will display its new-generation products.

(Xinhua)

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# MII Breaks up Monopoly

## New Netcom to Eliminate Redundant Business

By Yang Xiao

"I am not taking charge of arranging the opening ceremony on May 16, personally I think the new China Telecom will not take charge either. The task belongs to Ministry of Information Industry." So said Li Ran, representative of China Netcom Corporate Information Department, when Beijing Today contacted her two days before the ceremony.

In fact both companies unveiled new logos last Thursday on their Web sites and in full-page advertisements in major newspapers. Leaders of both companies took part in the opening ceremony. The publicity blitz ended months of silence from the operators. The Ministry of Information Industry had hoped to launch the two ventures prior to the Chinese New Year, but was thwarted by a degree of foot-dragging and bureaucracy.

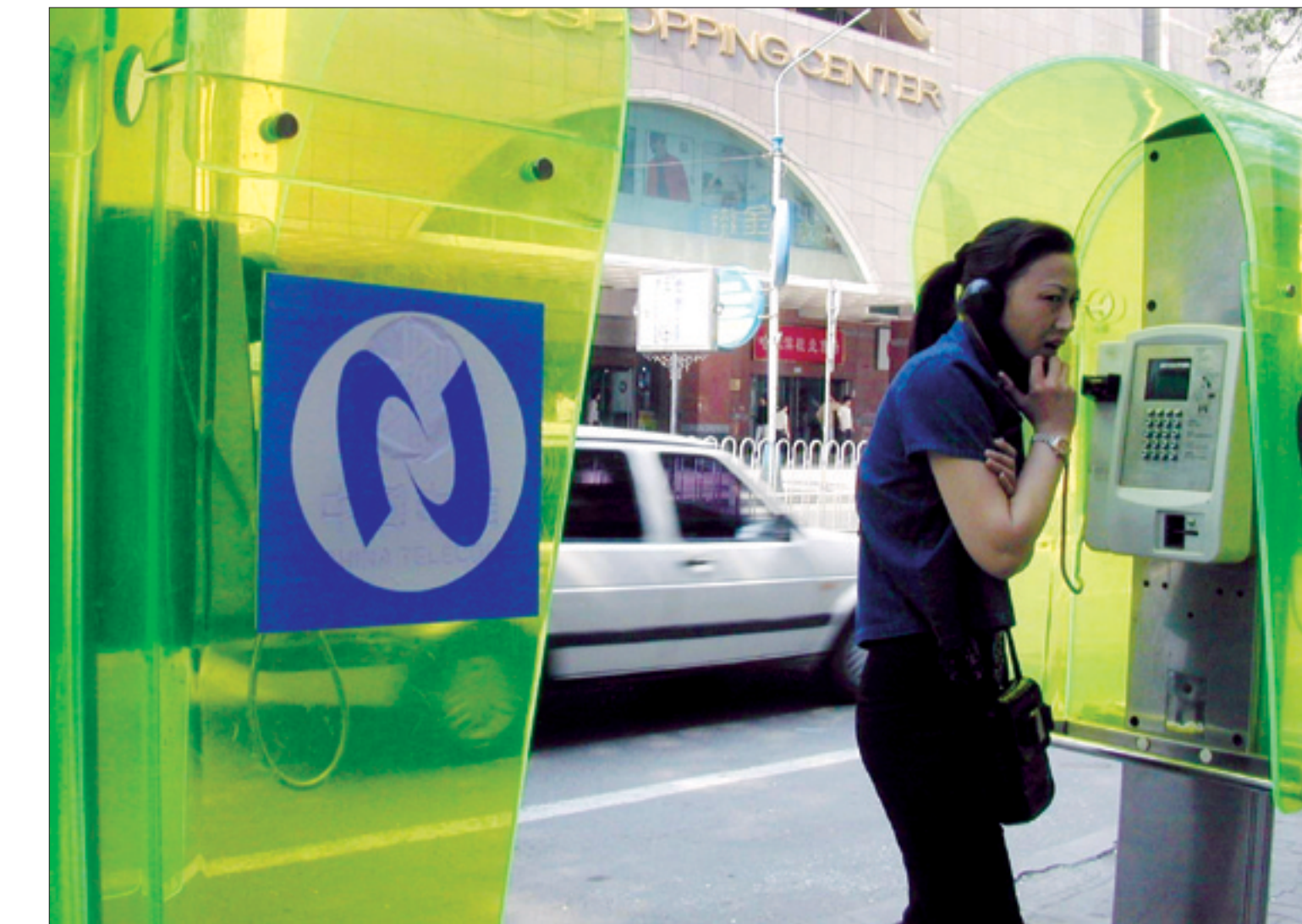
"China has been growing at a rate of a new US regional telecom company," says Robert Mao, president of Nortel Networks China. It is no surprise that China's telecom industry will be worth \$27 billion by 2006, according to Gartner Dataquest. The researcher did not cite the current market value. Now China has more than 300 million telephone subscribers and 131 million mobile phone users.

The ministry ordered the breakup last December, on the day China joined the WTO. As a condition of membership, the government has promised to let foreigners own up to 50 percent of telecom ventures after two years and 49 percent of mobile phone companies after five years.

"The guiding policy of the telecom system reform is the breakup of monopolies," Minister of Information Industry Wu Jichuan said in a statement. He said his ministry would strive to "promote fair market competition."

Foreign telecom giants have been quick to praise China's reforms in the information industry. "Maybe because the information industry opened earlier than any other industries, then the field became the most booming market throughout China," commented Wu Jiguo, deputy general manager of Capitel Nokia Mobile Telecommunications whose company invested over 12 billion dollars and earns one billion dollars in exports for Beijing annually, one quarter of the total.

The two new companies inherit one of the world's most



Public telephone in Harbin sport the new China Netcom logo (above); Workers in Shanghai erect a billboard bearing the new China Telecom logo (below). Old China Telecom had been one of the world's biggest phone companies, with 100 million lines. The number of fixed line telephones has risen from 17.3 million in 1993 to 87.4 million last year

Photos by Photocom

modern fiber-optic networks and one of the biggest Internet markets. One company retains the China Telecom name and operates in the 21 southern and western provinces and regions. The other will merge China Telecom's operations in the remaining 10 provinces with data communications carrier, China Netcom, and operate under the China Netcom name.

China Telecom's share of the market will fall from more than 50 percent to 33.8 percent. China Netcom's share will be 17.2 percent.

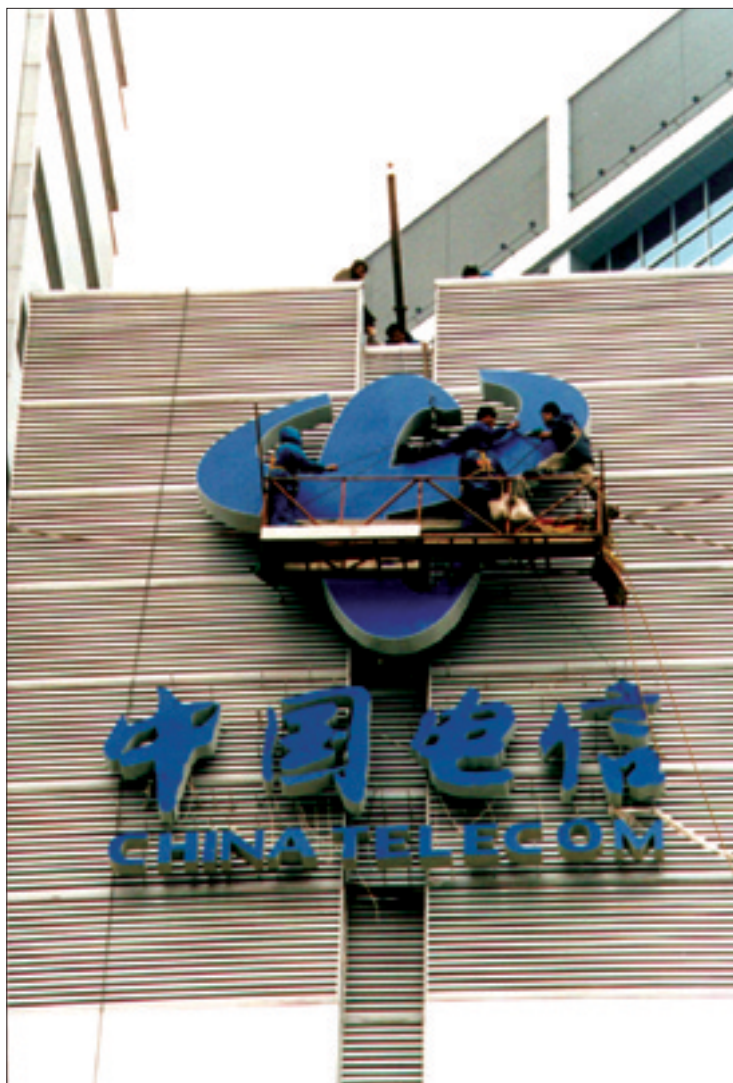
They will rank as China's second and third largest carriers, after China Mobile. The other three state-owned carriers are China Unicom, China Railcom, and China Satcom.

"In three to five years' time, we will build China Netcom into a world-class, internationally-competitive telecom operator," said a statement issued by Xi Guohua, president of China Netcom.

According to reports, the two reorganized company will stride into investment on advanced software and instruments utilization while offer updated services. Moreover, the new Telecom plans to collect cash amounting



Wu Jichuan, Minister of Information Industry



## AUTO INDUSTRY

# Reluctant Purchase to Unveiled in June

By Jiang Zhong

Negotiations over Yiqi's purchase of Tianqi are attracting a lot of media attention, and the results are reportedly to be announced in June. However the two parties are apparently reluctant to sit down together for round table discussions.

Then why is there talked about a "marriage"? Tianqi announced ten key projects worth 900 million yuan in early 2001. Part of the projects, worth 400 million yuan, are preparations for the launch of Toyota NBC V in 2002.

Toyota, Tianqi's partner, was not satisfied with Tianqi's current situation, specifically its bad asset burden and inefficient human resource configuration. According to Toyota, Tianqi should close down its unprofitable production lines of Yan Pai truck and San Feng wagon.

It should also stop purchasing parts from inferior suppliers. As one of the key enterprises of Tianjin, Tianqi's fulfillment of Toyota's requirement would undoubtedly

exacerbate the severe unemployment situation of the city. Toyota's condition for overall cooperation was unacceptable for Tianqi.

At the same time Toyota was negotiating with Yiqi on a sedan project. Since Toyota didn't want to give up its cooperation Tianqi, and its technical aid was very important for Tianqi's transformation in production means and upgrade of products. It seemed that Yiqi should be the only solution to the partners' dilemma. In early 1980s, Toyota purchased Daihatsu, the supplier of Xiali technologies. So Toyota has controlled Tianqi's lifeline since then.

In 2000 Toyota announced the initiation of the two partners' overall cooperation with the launch of its engine production in Tianqi. However Tianqi, the economy manufacturer, couldn't contribute anything helpful for improving Toyota's presence in Chinese market, owing to its burden of bad assets and unemployment pressure.

Meanwhile Yiqi, the key enterprise of the state, is taking advantage of the gov-

ernment's support. Cooperation with Yiqi and Yiqi's purchase of Tianqi will be of great help for launching Toyota's sedan production in China. The purchase would also satisfy the government. The government has encouraged the three giants' purchase of inefficient auto enterprises such as the assembly plants and parts manufacturers. Jia Xinguang, senior researcher of China Auto Industry Consulting Company, explained, "It's very difficult to put the merger of Chinese auto industry into practice."

The giants who purchase the inferior manufacturers have to also take the burden of their bad assets, according to the government's regulations. The result is the advantage of integration and the strength of the giants would be greatly compromised. And inner competition will replace outer competition. Nothing would be changed. Yiqi had declined a merger offer with an engine plant in Beijing last year, owing to the plant's debt of 2,000 million yuan and 20,000 laid off employees.

Despite Toyota's mediation, Tianqi is in a similar situation to Beijing engine manufacturers. However, some other international giants have also contact Yiqi for sedan cooperation. So Toyota risks losing its strong potential partner and even missing the opportunity of improving its presence in China if it continues to insist on Yiqi's purchase of Tianqi.

Both Yiqi and Tianqi refused to reveal what progress had been made in the latest negotiations. Beijing Today called Toyota's China Office on Wednesday. The company said that the negotiation was the business between the two parties, and would not comment on the issue at present. The current situation is that the Tianjin government and Toyota hope the two parties will sign the contract, according to Chinese auto market researchers and the media. Yiqi doesn't want to be involved in Tianqi's Troubles, but for Tianqi, it will carry out its new model production, even if the negotiations come to nothing.



## Beijing Invites International Suggestions

Beijing is inviting large international businesses to offer their assistance and suggestions for the city's development as it is determined to make the 2008 Olympic Games a success and seize opportunities brought about by China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

This was the message of both Jia Qinglin, secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Mayor Liu Qi at a meeting Wednesday with participants attending the fourth annual meeting of the International Business Leaders Advisory Council for the Mayor of Beijing.

The two-day annual meeting, held May 22-23 in Beijing, focused on the Olympics Games, Beijing's overall development, and China's WTO accession and Beijing's opening-up.

Heinrich von Pierer, president and CEO of Siemens AG, praised Beijing for its progress in communications, environmental protection, scientific and technological development and investment environment.

He said he hoped that the meeting would help the participants learn more about the city so they will be able to provide practical suggestions.

There are 21 well-known names in the council, 17 of whom attended this year's meeting. (Xinhua)

## Ericsson Establishes R&D Center in China

By Ivy Zhang / Xinhua

The foundation of the Ericsson R&D Academy in Beijing was announced Wednesday this week, demonstrating the telecommunication giant's continued interest in the world's largest market.

The announcement was made by Kurt Hellstrom, Ericsson's Chief Executive Officer, prior to the opening of the fifth China Beijing International High-tech Expo (CBHT), which he will attend.

Dr. Zhang Ken has been named president of the academy and will be in charge of strategic planning and research and development.

Hellstrom said that China's market is critical to the future development of his company. Moreover, China's massive potential market, sound investment environment, skilled human resources and research and development facilities will help Ericsson to provide its global network with better products and services.

To date, Ericsson has established six research and development centers, ten joint ventures and four wholly-owned enterprises in China. This new facility is intended to strengthen cooperation between Ericsson and Chinese research institutes.

## Trade Talks Generate Tech Interest

By Shan Jinliang

Hundreds of intellectuals gathered at the Capital Hotel this week for the kick-off of the Trade Talks on Investment Projects for Overseas Chinese Scholars, at which several letters of intent were signed.

Before the talks opened, senior city officials presented "Overseas Scholars Business Start-up Awards" to ten excellent overseas Chinese scholars in a hall of the hotel's second floor.

In his speech at the trade talks in the morning, Zhang Jianjun, deputy secretary general of Beijing Municipal Government, said Beijing has attracted around 30,000 returning Chinese scholars, the most by any city in China.

Nearly a dozen returned scholars introduced the projects they are representing in seeking cooperation to an audience of more than 600 people. Most introduced more than one project, pushing their speeches past the scheduled time of three minutes.

Projects mentioned by scholars returned from the US, Great Britain, Canada, and France cover fields including bio-pharmaceutical methods to cure breast cancer, financial management software, environmental consulting and several projects for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Ying Qinwei, who works at the Harvard School of Medicine, introduced one of the most astonishing technologies, a genetic technology that was selected by Science magazine as one of the top ten technologies of 2001.

Half an hour before the doors were scheduled to open at 1 pm, business people began to flock to the hall in hopes of finding cooperative partners. Overseas scholars representing 113 companies, 31 international investors and 40 domestic companies were expected to take part in yesterday's free-style trade talks.

"The actual number of participants could be much larger," said Jiang Quansheng, CEO of Arron Investment Consulting, the organizer of the trade talks. "More than 200 overseas Chinese scholars brought around 400 high-tech projects, most in the IT, wireless telecommunications and environmental protection fields."

At 3:30 pm, an unnamed leader of the delegation from Yinkou, Liaoning Province, said, "We have signed letters of intent with a contractual value of 200 million yuan."

Jiang told *Beijing Today*, "the total contractual value of letters of intent signed at the first trade talk for overseas Chinese scholars at last year's High-tech Expo reached around 800 million yuan."



A world of the International Media Boulevard attracts visitors at the International Modern Media Exhibition yesterday Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Media Exhibition Kicks Off High-tech Expo

By Zhao Pu

The International Modern Media Exposition (IMME) kicked off Wednesday this week at the China World Trade Center, the first of the kind to get formally underway this year.

Organized by the Press and Publications Administration and

the Expo organizing committee, the exhibition showcases the state-of-the-art images of domestic and foreign medias and also unveils the model for Beijing's International Media Boulevard.

Including the section devoted to the International Media Boulevard, the exhibition consists of

five major sections. The print-media section features Beijing Youth Daily, China Daily, Beijing Morning Post, emphasizing their respective styles. Beijing Radio Station and Sun Television form the audio and video part of the exhibition. Several domestic advertising companies provide lively and color-

ful images, while the State Inspection Center of Information Safety spreads the concept of information safety technologies.

The highlight of the exhibition is the model presentation of the International Media Boulevard, which was also the subject of a trade talk in the adjoining China World Hotel.

## Development Area Exhibition to Attract Further Opportunities

By Miao Yajie

As China's only state-level development zone so far, Beijing Development Area is hosting a sub-exhibition hall at this year's Expo. The attendance of ten of the Beijing mayor's special advisors at Wednesday's opening ceremony is evidence of the status of this exhibition and the development area itself.

In the 20,000-square-meter Motor Hall of the Jingkai International Motor Square in the area, the exhibition is divided into five categories. A motor show and multiple service show are on the first floor. Featured are ten latest models

of brands such as Audi, Porsche, Volvo, and BMW, as well as a forklift truck from TCM, which is capable of moving sideways. They are on show for the first time in Beijing.

Staff from the Department of Customs, the Industrial and Commercial Bureau, state and local tax departments, the Construction Bank, and the Agriculture Bank representing the multiple service sectors, provide on the spot consulting on investment, trade talks and talent recruitment.

The focus on the second floor is on achievements in the Beijing Development Area over the ten years since

its establishment in 1991. Many of the large enterprises residing in the area, including Nokia, SMC, China Netcom, occupy stands at the exhibition.

The newly opened International Enterprises Cultural Park in the Area is the first of its kind worldwide. Besides the green function of the park, it is the first collective show of the world's enterprise culture. With the distinctive characteristics of humanity and culture in harmony and the combination of visual and virtual displays, the exhibition will surely bring new opportunities to the area.

## Media Boulevard Invites Business Giants

By Zhang Ran

Xuanwu District held its first activity to invite investment in the Beijing International Media Boulevard (IMB) at the China World Hotel at 10:00 am Wednesday.

Beijing city government officials, representatives from prospective investors such as Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV and Sun TV, banks including the Bank of China and Beijing City Industrial and Commercial Bank, and insurance companies joined in the trade talks.

The IMB will be built to the southwest of Tian'anmen Square and consist of International News Center, Top Garden Plaza, Media Commercial and Trading City, International Media Center, Fenghua Cyber City, Media Tomorrow City, Jingyun Media City, Hualong Media Building. The area was designed to be an operation center for top international media organizations and a residential center for their staff.

The International News Center will be the most prominent structure in the IMB, with a total area of nearly 110,000 square meters. This center is intended to meet the changing needs of the media industry since China's WTO entry and the evolution of traditional news agencies and communications.

The Jingyun Media City at the heart of the IMB will have a natural, traditional Chinese design. Ma Bingjian, an expert in ancient architecture, is directing the planning of the building, which will meld Ming and Qing dynasty construction styles.

Jin Yan, vice governor of Xuanwu District, said, "the completion of the IMB will effect a great change on this old district."

## Teshijie Receives Applauds

By Shan Jinliang

In a corner of a hall on the second floor of the Capital Hotel yesterday, Zhang Shiwei, representative of Teshijie Group (Hong Kong) in Shenzhen, smiled as he described the prospects of his pet project to visitors and potential investors.

Zhang said, "It is called plastic steel and it's biodegradable."

While Zhang described the project, a short man from Xinyi, Zhejiang Province, passing by took interest. Zhang told him, "Come have a look. This is a state key project in the Ninth Five-Year Plan."

Zhang told him that his building materials all meet state standard and are generally cheaper than those in similar other products.

"Four production lines for our products cost as little as 3.5 million yuan, compared to 2.54 million US dollars for one inferior imported production line," he said.

Zhang told another visitor that a company from France, "ordered products from our production lines, but due to our limited production capacity, we had to sell them manufacturing equipment."



Mascots rehearse on Wangfujing Street for the opening ceremony of the Wangfujing World Famous Commercial Streets' Seminar to be held this Friday Photo by Zhang Ke

## Foreign Reps Take Hard Look at Wangfujing

By Feng Yihua

Representatives from five countries of famed international commercial streets arrived in Beijing Wednesday to attend the World Famous Commercial Streets' Seminar on Wangfujing Street, one activity in the fifth CBHT.

Representatives from another eight countries arrived yesterday, according to CBHT Organizing Committee.

The delegates that have already arrived come from Austria, Canada, the US, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea, representing the commercial streets from around the world, such as New York's Fifth Avenue and Paris' Champs-Elysees.

The delegates from 14 coun-

tries will all gather at Wangfujing this Friday to discuss the problems facing Wangfujing Street in terms of construction and administration, and offer suggestions for the street's continued development.

After visiting Beijing's Silk Market on Monday, Austrian representative Helmut Mondschein, said, "Silk Market is great, it offers all sorts of goods and bargaining with vendors is OK."

Mondschein added, "Kaermtnner Street in Vienna is a commercial area noted for its blend of international name brands with family-based companies, and old buildings with modern structures."

The Dongcheng District government hopes to change Wangfujing from being just a shopping area

into a multi-functional area, integrating shopping, recreation and culture sites.

"Wangfujing will invite some experts in commerce to make an upgrading project. We will ask some commerce experts for advice and spend several years on rebuilding Wangfujing," said Li Jun, vice manager of the personnel department of the Wangfujing Administration Office.

Founded in the Yuan Dynasty over 700 years ago, Wangfujing Street evolved into a commercial street by the end of Qing Dynasty. Since 1949, it has emerged as China's most famous market street, and been rebuilt three times in the past twenty years.



# Battery Shocks Motorola Customer

By Zeng Peng

More than 20 days after his mobile phone battery exploded, he awaits a satisfactory response from Motorola.

Guan Li, Motorola China public relations manager, said after-service personnel were "taking efforts" to solve the problem through consultation with Mr. Zhao and the authorized service center.

Zhao, who declined to have his full name published, bought his Motorola 388 with two batteries and a charger for 4,980 yuan at Tianqiao branch of Beijing Zoomflight Telecom on April 26. He plugged in the battery 9 pm on April 28, he says.

Then 11 am the next day, something happened.

"My living room filled with smoke right after a big explosion," he said. "The charged battery then disintegrated into four parts."

The next day after the accident, Zhao went to Zoomflight. Manager Sui Li sent Zhao to the Motorola Maintenance Center to have the fried equipment checked. The center supervisor said the battery was too badly damaged to appraise its authenticity.

A frustrated Zhao went to the Beijing Quality Test Station for Communication Products noon the next day. After thorough examination, personnel confirmed the authenticity of the Motorola charger. But they failed to authenticate the battery. The authenticity label had been burnt so as not to reveal the Motorola test station.

The Tianqiao branch store of Zoomflight faxed a statement to Motorola, explaining the accident and that they would replace the original M388 battery and one charger. Eight days later, Sui Li showed Zhao the certificate indicating his new mobile phone and accessories

were all real Motorola products, not fake.

Zhao went to Motorola China on May 8 and showed the battery and charger to Hao Yongmin, who works in the after-service section of Motorola. Hao said he could not be sure they were genuine. The only solution, he said, was to send the battery to Motorola headquarters in the USA for appraisal.

"Why do things I bought in China need to be sent abroad for appraisal?" Zhao said he said. "What if they play a trick on me?"

Motorola China then abandoned the idea of sending the battery to the USA. But Hao insisted his company send a representative to accompany Zhao to have the new battery appraised at Beijing Quality Test Station for Communication Products. If the battery was proved authentic, he said, Motorola would compensate him. The results were pending at presstime.



Photo by Qu Liyan

## Rebel Professor Defies Music Conservatory

By Miao Yajie

A professor fired after an explosive examination room row with colleagues is charging wrongful dismissal against one of the country's top music institutions.

The China Conservatory of Music on April 22 dismissed Li Guanglu, professor of the Instrument Department, citing disruption of an undergraduate entrance exam on April 17.

Li and the school offer conflicting accounts of that day. Li, a grade one sheng player, wants to see the video and audio evidence. "The school always tapes the examination," he said. "The facts will emerge if the contents of the tape recordings are revealed."

Han Liping, director of the President's Office, dismissed Li's idea.

"It would be so much easier if they had recorded all the events of that day," she said. "But I have already asked the people who taped the proceedings and the only thing on tape is the actual performance."

It all blew up during the wind and percussion auditions.

Master of proceedings Wang Yidong commented on the performance of the first sheng examinee. Exam regulations do not permit examiners to openly review, says Li, 43.

Wang allegedly told the examinee he had made mistakes and had not met required criteria. As one of only two actual sheng players on the 18-person examination board, Li interrupted. He says he feared Wang's ill-informed comments would mislead other examiners. It also placed undue pressure on the examinee, he says.

The other examiners including sheng player Zhang Zhiliang objected to his intervention, he says. Later another open row ensued as Li intervened again.

The next day, department director Liu Dehai – not at the examination – dropped Li from the board without any consultation. Four days later, in a long statement, the conservatory fired Li.

The conservatory later stated it was Li – not Wang – who broke critical silence. Looking at test scores – out loud in front of the examinee – Li allegedly said, "Who wrote this test score? It is so low level, so unprofessional. Besides, it is handwritten. And why is there only one score? There should be two."

"The test should be marked 'large sheng' or 'small sheng'. It's abnormal not to mark this. I think the examinee played pretty good. His triplet was quite accurate."

Wang Yidong asked Li not to comment and after mediation, the exam continued. As the second examinee finished, Li again intervened. The two bickered. Proceedings were suspended for 20 minutes.

Li admitted to *Beijing Today* he had indeed commented on the scores, but only in response to a question. The exam room had not been a war zone at that time, he explained.

The Municipal Education Committee will weigh Li's appeal. Li said so far no one from the committee had approached him for his side of the story. Han said the committee had finished its investigation at the school and a decision would be made public in one month.



Durocs are red. Landraces are white and Pietrains are blotchy.

Photo by Fan Jiwen

## Sold: Fat Heavy Pig

The highest-priced boar in Chinese history will be taking a trip to the seaside. The 100-kilo Danish Landrace — which organizers had not named — went for 80,000 yuan to the Puliandian Boar Breeding Center of Dalian. The Boar Evaluation Station of Shunyi Dis-

trict auctioned 12 pigs for a total of more than 600,000 yuan on May 18.

"Last year one Pietrain sold for 66,000 yuan," said Wang Qinglin, station director. "This year the boars are better than those of last year."

(Sun Ming)

## Blind Fondle Works of Art



By Ivy Zhang / Sun Ming

He touches the picture.

"Yes, it's a circle!" says Wei Tong, 7. "Oh, a big circle and a small circle."

Father Wei Weifeng smiles.

All 37 paintings, black and white and color, are presented on tables at the Building Bridges Exhibition in the Capital Museum last Friday.

"Disabled people can feel my pictures by touching them with their hands," says Swiss-German painter Margot Ende, 75.

Ende, who uses the brush name "Lili", used to be a pediatric surgeon. She learned braille in 1990 and after advertising in a periodical for visually disabled people, began correspondence with them.

Her pen pals' letters made her more aware of blind persons' problems. "I want to build a bridge between the sighted and blind, between Europe and China, and between Chinese cultures and European cultures through this exhibition," she says.

Ende told *Beijing Today* she first drew pictures on normal paper, then sent the black and white copy of the pictures to a printing institution in Zurich, Switzerland who print the pictures on a special kind of Japanese paper for the blind.

"The black lines and surfaces get hotter than the white ones. And the black lines are elevated," she says.

Half the pictures are colored to "cater for the needs of sighted and people with low vision."

It takes about an hour for the blind to go through every painting while listening to a personal stereo tape that provides an explanation of each picture with background music.

"At the beginning, the pictures are simple and easy to understand. But slowly the pictures get a little bit more complicated," says Ende.

"Some are abstract and symbolic. I want to let the blind learn what abstract paintings mean."

The exhibition ends June 2. Opening : 9 am-5 pm everyday

By Chen Huiying

One wiggle was it all it took a wily 24-year-old to unbolt an ATM machine worth 500,000 yuan in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province.

Yu Qingjiang, 24, of the Beijing Yongqiang Lock Service Center, took three minutes to open what had baffled lesser locksmiths for almost a week.

He used a screwdriver.

Yu rapped the back of the machine with the knob. It burst open.

## City Locksmith to Rescue of Bank

After the Agriculture Bank of China Wenzhou cash dispenser broke down on May 6, the bank had turned to Yu in desperation. Under legal instruction, Yu asked bank clerks to withdraw. Two reporters from Beijing newspapers stayed to witness the Houdini moment.

"There is no lock we cannot deal with," said Yu's boss Huang Yongqiang. Huang

said usually they insert a tiny specialty tool into a keyhole and just open the lock by plucking and tapping.

Huang says his capital city company imports new locks every year to study them before they even reach China.

Starting in Beijing 15 months ago, Huang's Lock Center now has 50 locksmiths. All are Huang's apprentices and

registered with the police for their special skills.

They dress in black uniforms with "198 call (开锁) kaisu (unlock)" printed on the back.

Helping people unlock things saves lives, believes Huang. People sometimes fall from buildings trying to get in through windows, he said.

## Hardcore Fans Receive Grail

By Chen Ying

Some of the most sought-after rectangular pieces of paper in Chinese history arrived in town yesterday.

The 15,749 tickets for China's three World Cup games in South Korea next month were delivered to the management group of the Chinese Football Association and China International Sports Travel.

Team China fans can only buy the tickets through the management group, which also arranges their travel. The tickets can be identified by the anti-counterfeit hologram in the right corner and the bar code at the bottom.

## Cops Catch TV Robber

By Yu Yang / Feng Yihua

A cunning burglar who studied a TV cop show for tips on eluding capture was captured by cops last week.

After being held two days in Beitapingzhuang Police Station, Zhang Lianli, 40, of Hebei, confessed to 15 burglaries. From his confession, police located his stash of 12 mobile phones and more than 20,000 yuan in cash in his dormitory.

Zhang came to the capital two years ago to work as a builder. He told police he liked to watch the Beijing TV Channel 3 "Law is Going On (法制进行时)" to learn police procedures and drew up his own theories to duck the long arm.

From January 2002, Zhang put his "theories" to the test, burgling Haidian residences in Chengfu Lu, Gua Jiatun, Bao Fu Temple and Shuangqing Lu.

Zhang broke into a bungalow near Tsinghua University and stole some valuable items 6:30am on May 12. Then he stole a bicycle and rode to his building site.

But Zhang followed his rule number one: do not choose the main road, travel by alley. He knew from TV few police walk down quiet alleys.

Zhang bumped into police in the alley. In his bicycle basket, they found a white plastic bag containing a handbag, a bank book and a credit card.

Zhang admitted his crime on the spot. Asked where he came from, Zhang kept silent. He said later at the station that police would not find his identity as he didn't carry any personal certificates. Zhang followed the second rule: never carry identity papers on the day of the job. But Zhang forgot rule number three – admit nothing. Two days later, he confessed to everything.

## No Claims for Prize

By Feng Yihua

The holder of the winning Beijing Computer Welfare Lottery ticket never claimed his or her 4,415,402 yuan prize.

The May 15 deadline passed without a squeak.

The 2002 lottery produced the prize on April 15 and reminded buyers of paying attention to their numbers. Special officers were hired to wait for the winner day and night until the May 15 midnight deadline. The prize money will be ploughed back into promotions, the lottery center announced.



By Chen Ying/Luo Changping

Narrow criss-crossing canals, arched bridges and pristine ancient buildings make the town of Zhouzhuang the gem of Jiangsu province's rich architectural heritage. However, the town's application for recognition as a world heritage site has sparked a growing conflict between its leadership and its residents.

Despite government efforts, "It's absolutely impossible that Zhouzhuang will get the title of World Heritage Site this year," said Zhuang Chundi, the head of the town. At the same time, residents of the town seem to directly oppose the local government's action.

An expanding 1,500 meter-long commercial street running along a river in the town is a symbol of this conflict, as residents continue to open new business to capitalize on the town's burgeoning tour-

ism industry. Many of these stores would have to shut their doors if the application goes through.

that they could apply to have Zhouzhuang registered as a world heritage site. The local government proceeded to set up a World Heritage Application Group and a Town Protection Committee and has spent more than 100 million yuan (about 12 million dollars) in the past few years to maintain and improve its infrastructure, such as water supply and sewage facilities. Moreover, town leaders issued many regulations to put clamps on would-be entrepreneurs, out of concern that the town's exploding businesses could affect its chances. However, the windfall from the town's booming tourism trade has led residents to ignore the government's decisions. One unnamed resident of Zhouzhuang said, "the head of our town is after a higher position in the government, so he has gotten deeply involved in the world heritage application. All we residents want is to earn a living and lead better lives."

Many of the houses in the town, because they are hundreds of years old, suffer from poor ventilation and lighting. Yet, in order to maintain their appearance, the government stipulates such houses cannot be improved. Residents are upset that recognition as a world heritage site will mean many stores in the town will have to be closed, but it is clear that this historic area will sustain serious damage if changes are not made. Opinions on the question of how to solve Zhouzhuang's dilemma follow:

ism industry. Many of these stores would have to shut their doors if the application goes through. A new store opens nearly every day in Zhouzhuang, and the town already is home to several hundred shops hawking tourist trinkets, a figure not commensurate with its 0.47 square kilometer area and population of 3,000. Tourism has become the major source of income for the town and its residents, generating total revenues of 500 million yuan (about 60 million dollars) in 2001.

The town has received a steadily increasing number of tourists over the past several years. During this year's Labor Day holiday (around May 1), 150,000 entrance tickets to Zhouzhuang were sold. The town can accommodate a maximum of 30,000 tourists a day.

As early as December 1997, members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) visited the town and informed the local government

up with their own ways to earn money and make a living by developing these sites.

Li Yanhua, a white collar worker from Beijing

The response of Zhouzhuang's residents to the local government's application is reasonable. Everyone has the right to participate in business activities in today's market economy. Applying for world heritage recognition is an action of a government or local authority. But that doesn't mean citizens don't have a duty to participate in these applications, or that governments can ignore their residents' opinions.

The central government should step in to coordinate and balance the relationship between local governments and their residents.

The government should strive to uphold the people's interest while protecting our national heritage.

By Chen Ying

traditional lives of its inhabitants, is unacceptable.

Equally unacceptable is allowing inhabitants to destroy a historic town to adapt it to their comfort and to the temporary needs of a generation. Remember, heritage sites are supposed to last indefinitely, not only for our lifetime.

People live and do business in every historic city on the World heritage List. They are not empty museums frozen in time. It is accepted that living historic cities must continue to live, and that life means that they must evolve. In this sense, proper preservation and protection have to do with managing that change, instead of simply letting it happen.

The relationship between government and inhabitants is managed very carefully by listening to the needs and desires of all parties. In a democratic process, a process of negotiation then ensues. It is im-

portant that in all these discussions and public hearings, all who are involved understand what is valuable about their historic town, so that each group and individual may also understand how his/her/their actions will impact the cultural significance and the values of the place.

They may have decided that the town can absorb more tourism without great damage. The authorities may have also noted that the recent massive tourism influx has given rise to many local businesses that are not traditionally located and that are altering the historical and cultural atmosphere that makes the place culturally significant. The influx of tourism may have attracted a larger permanent population to the town than its infrastructure can sustain.

One thing is universally accepted: as a basic necessity, there have to be controls, and heritage agencies within government and specialized non-governmental organizations are the ones who can best establish or recommend what those controls should be.

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Li Yanhua, a white collar worker from Beijing

The response of Zhouzhuang's residents to the local government's application is reasonable. Everyone has the right to participate in business activities in today's market economy. Applying for world heritage recognition is an action of a government or local authority. But that doesn't mean citizens don't have a duty to participate in these applications, or that governments can ignore their residents' opinions.

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By Chen Ying

Xie Ninggao, professor and director of the Peking University World Heritage Research Center

Uncontrolled exploitation has led to the severe damage of many national and even world-class natural and historical areas in China. Changes to these areas have left them looking fake and over-commercialized.

The government should give more financial support to natural areas and historical cities and towns. The government distributes 10 million yuan to the 119 natural preservation areas in the country every year, meaning only 84,000 yuan to each per year, only enough to build one standard restroom.

In comparison, the Korean government distributes more than 300 million yuan to its 20 national park every year.

This kind of shortage of capital forces local governments and residents to come

## SOUND BITES

"It's a symbol of how the community cares about visually-impaired people. Better learning conditions for the disabled will help enrich their lives and make them more useful members of society."

— Li Weihong, vice-president of the Beijing Municipal Association for the Handicapped, regarding the opening of the first government-funded community library for visually-impaired people in Beijing's Xicheng District

"It's impossible to help all dropouts go back to school with the donations collected in this program, but at least we can help children in some areas to continue their education."

— He Han, Deputy Director of the China Children's Charity Day program, which aims at mobilizing the whole society to help drop-outs in poor areas of the country, especially in western China

"It sort of reminds me of a marriage, a bad marriage, in which you know a marriage is over not when people are arguing, but when they stop arguing. It's as though they've decided that, well, it's not worth it."

— Gary Schmitt, executive director of the Project for the New American Century, a conservative Washington thinktank, describing the relationship between Europe and the US

By Chen Ying

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# Modernization Report Cause for Optimism?

The China Modernization Report, by Tone Modernization Report Center (TMRC) highlights that two stages of modernization exist in China.

For the second stage, China ranked 56 out of 108 countries in 1999, higher than its ranking for the first (64 out of 108). The report describes China as an "early staged developed country."

The report also ranks 34 provinces and areas in China. Beijing had completed 94% of the first modernization by the end of the 1990s, slightly behind Shanghai (97%) but ahead of Tianjin (93%).

"For the second stage modernization, Beijing (76%) has outpaced Italy, Ireland and Spain; Tianjin (50%) is almost at the same level as Argentina; and Shanghai (64%) is almost as advanced as Italy and Ireland," says the report.

## Two stages of modernization

"The developed countries completed the first stage of modernization, characterized by industrialization in the 1960s, which is recognized as the classic modernization." He Chuanqi, professor of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) and general director of TMRC, says the modernization after that actually negates the first stage.

"In 1999, the value of industry in China increased to 49% of GDP, almost twice that of America. Can we say that China is more advanced in terms of industrialization than America?"

He Chuanqi points out the result of the transformation of economic structure reveals countries with lower industrialization have enjoyed higher modernization since the 1960s.

"We can not call this stage classic modernization any more, for it is characterized by non-industrialization. But most of the developing countries do not complete the first stage modernization."

"No matter what it is called, the content is always the same." He Chuanqi highlights that there are similar terms for second stage of modernization, such as "venture" or "reflexive" modernization in Germany and "post" modernization in America and France.

"But their research is too general." He Chuanqi hopes that the concept of TMRC's second modernization will be recognized worldwide within five to ten years. He recalls the concept of first stage modernization - classic modernization, became popular after it was first raised in the 1950s.

"People will accept our concept if they know about it," He Chuanqi adds.

According to He Chuanqi, data about the 131 countries with a population over 1 million comes from the World Bank annual report, while data about the 34 Chinese provinces and areas are from China Statistics Yearbook.

## 'Early-staged developed'

The report classifies countries into less developed, early-stage developed, medium developed and developed. China is among the early-staged develop countries.

"The classification of countries into developed and developing is made by the World Bank, based on GNP per person. Why not look at the social development standards? What about science, technology and culture?" says He Chuanqi.

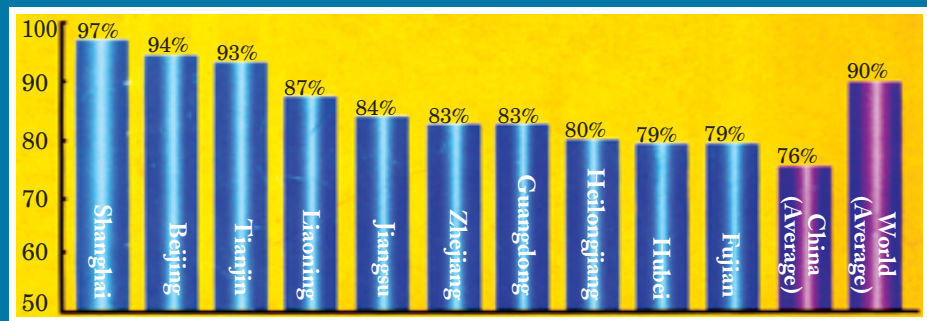
Based on the World Bank's classification, countries with high income are called developed countries and countries with upper medium and lower medium as well as low income are all called developing countries.

"But we always hear that China will become a medium developed country by 2050. What is meant by medium developed? No one is able to say clearly."

He Chuanqi considers the TMRC classification shows more consistency with the World Bank's income classification. He says to be more precise, the more developed countries can be divided into "comparatively developed" (those with high income), and "comparatively less developed" (those with upper medium income), while the less developed can be divided into "comparatively developed" (those with lower medium income) and "comparatively less developed" (those with low income).

"In fact China is still a developing country, though it is also described as comparatively developed among the less developed countries."

However, He Chuanqi says the classifi-



Percentage of completion of the first stage modernization in China's mainland in 2000.

## For the second stage modernization, Beijing has outpaced Italy, Ireland and Spain.

## In fact China is still a developing country, though it is also described as comparatively developed among the less developed countries.

## Even with GDP increase remaining steady at 8.8%, China will still need 46 years to reach the level of modernization America is at now.

## Beijing's urban population account for 78% of the total, the same as Israel and Singapore, and higher than South Korea (76%) and Italy (69%).

## About the report

The first stage modernization is called classic modernization and is characterized by the development of the industrial economy.

The index of the first stage are average GDP per person, increase in agriculture and service as percentages of GDP, percentage of agricultural labor of the total labor force, percentage of city dwellers of the total population, standard of medical services, infant mortality rate, life expectancy, adult literacy and percentage of adults with a university degree.

The second is called new modernization, and is characterized by the development of the intellectual economy, informationalization, globalization, decentralization and innovation.

However, the report does not give an exact prediction of the level of the world medium developed countries in 2050.

It suggests the bottom line should be with the development level of the 12 developed countries in 1999.

The reason is that in 1999, 15 developed countries were in the second stage modernization (12 in the developing stage and three in the beginning stage); nine of the 31 medium developed countries progressed to the second stage, compared with the rest having completed or almost completed the first stage.

The current medium developed countries will reach the maturity of the second stage in 50 years.

Hence it is certain that the level of the medium developed countries in the maturity of second stage modernization will be higher than the 12 developed countries in 1999, the report predicts.

cation is not simply about giving a better name or avoiding "loss of face." "It is suitable to our culture. It must be suitable to our culture."

He Chuanqi says TMRC's way of classifying China is more correct, but "we do not say we give more explanation and show a better understanding of the target set by Deng Xiaoping."

He reiterates that Deng once said China will have become a medium developed country by 2050, but he points out that this does not mean "a medium developed country among the developed ones."

Meanwhile, he also points out that development is an on-going process in both developing and developed countries. "Why only give one group the name of developing? It is misleading."

He emphasizes that sometimes China is referred to as a developed country, "when we sing our own praises in front of foreigners" and sometimes we insist on being a developing country, when involved in trade dealings or negotiating with the world."

He Chuanqi says the terminology must be clarified and consistent. "A clear and specific explanation is good for carrying out policies."

Furthermore, he says it is impossible for China to become a developed country within 50 years.

"I have calculated that even with GDP increase remaining steady at 8.8%, China will still need 46 years to reach the level of modernization America is at now."

## Comparing Beijing with Italy

According to He Chuanqi, since the target set by China is to become a medium developed country by 2050, it is not strange to compare individual areas or provinces with a medium developed country.

"It is reasonable to make such a comparison because of the similarities of the population base. Beijing is not a city. It has urban and rural areas, like those countries."

Beijing's urban population account for 78% of the total, the same as Israel and Singapore, and higher than South Korea (76%) and Italy (69%). "It shows the urbanization in Beijing is advanced," says He Chuanqi.

He says the only "incomparability" is that Beijing cannot be compared with other cities. "Beijing is not a city."

"According to the Chinese system of classifying people according to their hukou, or residence permit, 100% of Beijing's population are "city dwellers". But elsewhere in the world, people are classified according to their living residence."

He Chuanqi says the understanding of the concept of "city" is different in China to the rest of the world.

Furthermore, the professor says all the index of the two stages modernization are comparable.

"All the indexes, whether in the first modernization or the second stage are calculated based on population. The population is comparable."

However, He Chuanqi does not say which specific index suggests Beijing is advanced over Italy. "We need to look at it from a complete way, not only a single index. The report is not simply a collection of statistics. It is a kind of assessment."

Being an assessment and only providing the direction and a basic rule is highlighted. "It does not mean we may have any mistakes or error. The basics will always be the same. We may only make small modifications or adjustments."

## Target of the report

"The report is mainly for the government, both central and local, as well as scholars." He Chuanqi says he hopes officials would learn from others in the world, and set more clear policies.

He Chuanqi says ordinary people may also benefit from the report, especially the understanding of competition.

According to He Chuanqi, TMRC needs to do more qualitative research on political and cultural issues.

"But it takes time and money, as well as personnel. Such research has been conducted overseas, but the rankings are too flexible. We doubt its validity."

He Chuanqi says government public relations is a key factor in the study of these issues, as part of the study of modernization.

(Su Wei)

## Weekly Survey

### Beijingers Enjoy Variety of Travel

By Su Wei

Among nearly 60% of surveyed Beijingers who traveled at least once in 2001, 69% have a monthly salary of around 1,000 yuan.

A survey conducted by Beijing BMS Associates reveals that over 60% prefer traveling outside Beijing, including 5% favoring overseas travel.

Those people are aged between 25 and 35, with a monthly salary around 2,000 yuan.

71% say they prefer deciding their own travel destinations, but booking tickets through travel agencies.

In contrast only 17% say they will consider taking part in a package tour.

Meanwhile, newspaper (49%), television (40%) and friends' recommendations (37%) are the top three sources for travel information.

Only 1% rely on information from brochures from travel agencies.

### Unhappy with Tourist Attractions

By Su Wei

A surveyed conducted by China Economics Monitoring Center reveals that over 80% of people are concerned about damage to tourist attractions caused by tourists.

Among, the 700 odd residents of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou questioned, nearly 40% say they are concerned with the falling standard of service.

Around 47% consider more effort needs to be put into equipment maintenance and renovation.

Meanwhile, 83% highlight that people should bear in mind that tourist attractions are also a resource for future generations.

### Working to Acquire a Skill

By Su Wei

According to China Juvenile Research Center, 37% of young people surveyed who leave home to work say they care more about the opportunity to learn a trade than merely making money.

In contrast, less than 20% say they only care about how much money they can make to support their family.

The survey also reveals around 10% of young people with high school education leave home to work compared with 7% at the end of 1980s.

The percentage of young people leaving home to work with junior middle school education is nearly 46%, twice the amount at the end of the 1980s.

The percentage of young people who have acquired certain skills after finding work has also risen to 34% compared with 18% ten years ago.

### Youth Sees More Opportunities to Succeed

By Su Wei

Over 80% of young people surveyed by the China Juvenile Research Center believe there are more opportunities now for them to succeed in life than there were six years ago.

Nearly 50% believe society today has become more equitable since 1978, 5% more than in 1996.

In contrast, only about 13% consider it is less fair or that there is less equality than in 1996, a decrease of nearly 3%.

Meanwhile, 35% say China is now able to provide the same amount of opportunities for success as western developed countries, about 5% more than in 1996.





Workers drain water from the Fuyuan mine  
Photos by Xinhua

# Mine Disaster

## A gas explosion traps 21 miners underground with little chance of survival



In the wake of the accident, the mine director Zhang Shunhe was arrested by the local police

**By Xinhua / Ivy Zhang**

With air pumps roaring, three white pipes continue to drain water from the pit. Rescue workers said there was almost no chance of any survivors being found. The coal gas explosion occurred on May 4 at the water logged Fuyuan mine in Yuncheng, Shanxi province. One miner died on the spot, and 21 were trapped in the pit. Two managed to escape. "We've been working flat out to drain the mine," said Xie Suzeng, the rescue team leader. "But the situation in the pit is complicated and we don't have a map. All we can do now is pump in air and drain the water alternately," he said.

"The pit is in the construction stage. The space down there is limited, and there is a large amount of coal gas. There is little chance for the workers' survival," one of the rescue workers commented. According to sources, the fatal mine accidents occurred total 185 with 490 people dead in Shanxi province last year. **Mine director admits responsibility** Immediately after the accident, mine director Zhang Shunhe, transferred the sur-

viving miners away from Yuncheng, hid all the papers related to the mine and tried to prevent news of the explosion from getting out. He was later arrested and interviewed by Xinhua reporters at a detainment center in Hejin city. Fuyuan is an illegal mine with incomplete set of licenses. Zhang said he contracted the mine from Wei Shouren, head of the preparation team of Yuncheng Sita mine. "There are more than 60 workers at Fuyuan, most of whom come from Hubei province. On that day, there were a total of 23 workers in the pit and two escaped later." Zhang grimaced and rubbed his hands together as he spoke. As to why he had tried to cover up the incident, Zhang kept silent for a while and then raised his head. "I used to be a teacher for 30 years and I know nothing about mining. I contracted this mine from Wei Shouren who is responsible to obtain the licenses. I'm responsible to recruit miners. " "I called Wei about the accident that day and he asked me to calm down and arrange the workers well. He called me on the night of May 7, saying some one has accused me and asking me to come to Hejin city."

"I arrived in Hejin but did not see Wei. I was taken to a hotel by Wei's man," Zhang said. He put his face in his hands and began crying. "I'm not a man! I'm black hearted! I was just after the money. I deserve the punishment," he wailed.

Police have reportedly recovered from Zhang's home the list of the miners who were in the pit when the explosion occurred.

Meanwhile, a notice was issued by the Hejin Public Security Bureau this Monday to pursue the suspect Wei Shouren, the judicial person for the Fuyuan mine.

**"I'm not a man! I'm black hearted! I was just after the money. I deserve the punishment," mine director Zhang Shunhe wailed.**

### A hiding place

Xinhua reporters also unearthed an underground "accident follow up center" in Hancheng, in neighboring Shannxi Province, 50 km from Hejin.

This "center" was used to house the relatives of victims so as to prevent news of such accidents getting out.

A restaurant owner at the "food street" in front of Hancheng railway station told reporters "many guesthouse owners in the street have a close relationship with the mine owners."

After an accident occurs, the mine owner would arrange the victims' relatives to stay in the guesthouses and cover the accommodation cost. In return, the guesthouse owners help hide the fact and keep watch on the 'guests.'

In the case of the Fuyuan accident, victims' relatives moved into eight guesthouses along the street, at the cost of 15 yuan per day per person.

Further investigation turned up another three such centers in Hancheng. The mine staff transferred the victims' relatives between the four places from time to time with the aim of blocking the news and preventing the relatives from different regions from keeping in touch with each other.

# Medical Waste Sells Well in Hebei

**By Rao Yajie/Li Junyi(Xinhua)/Ivy Zhang**

The Baoding section of Highway 107 in Hebei Province is lined with scores of large and small outdoor markets. Used plastic in varying shapes and sizes is the most commonly traded commodity at these markets, however this region is actually a center for a thriving black-market in medical waste.

Two Xinhua reporters made undercover visits to the region in February and April this year, in order to bring the illegal trade to light. Following is their report.

## Flourishing market for medical waste

Masquerading as potential buyers, the two reporters received a warm welcome. The Gaoyupu township plastic market in Shunping County was piled high with bags crammed full of disposable syringes and intravenous drips. The ground was littered with such items and many peasants were busy loading overflowing bags onto a truck.

When word spread that these two "buyers" were seeking to purchase intravenous drips, seven or eight people crowded around and one of them, pointing at a fully-loaded truck, said, "there are two or three tons of syringes and intravenous drips at my home. I can supply any kind you need, in pieces or complete."

Trucks loaded with medical waste can be seen frequently along the road and many villagers in the vicinity are involved in the trade.

The reporters visited the home of a peasant who gave his name simply as Wang, in Suxinzhuang village of Gaoyupu town. Syringes and intravenous drips covered half of the yard and eight women were sitting sorting them into different categories.

"All this stuff is virus-free and doesn't need to be disinfected," a man who described himself as the "owner of the factory" claimed.

Another villager, called Sun, told the reporters that one customer had purchased four truckloads of syringes last year. "The customer said the syringes would be filled with water for kids to play with as toys."

When the reporters returned at the end of April, the trade in medical waste had become a

little more discreet.

In Shunping country, a young man told them, "There has been a crackdown since media reports about the trade came out, and many buyers are reluctant to be seen here, but we have sufficient supply. I delivered seven or eight truckloads of syringes to a village just a couple of days ago."

A huge trade in used plastic from across the country is conducted along the four-kilometer stretch of highway linking Wangdu county and Mancheng county.

Buyers from Guangzhou and Wenzhou set up their base near the market, according to locals. "The medical

waste, without any disinfecting process, will be made into thermos flasks, fibers for manufacture of clothing, drinking water containers and food packaging."

## Hospitals and industrial incinerators main suppliers

The reporters found that hospitals and industrial incinerators supply the medical waste to dealers in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei province.

All medical disposals are supposed to be collected and incinerated at the city's industrial incinerators, according to local regulations.

But instead of disposing of the waste, staff at the incinerators sell it to private dealers.

"Almost all the disposable syringes and intravenous drips used in the city's hospitals have been sold to private dealers since 1999," an employee at one incinerator said. That brings in 70,000 to 80,000 yuan every year."

At the beginning of May, reporters found seven or eight workers classifying used syringes and intravenous drips in the yard of Shijiazhuang incinerator.

Blood could be seen on some of the materials and others contained various colored liquids. Flies were buzzing around over everything, and the workers wore no protective clothing.

A local told the reporters, "A businessman from out of town contracted the syringes and intravenous drips at the cremating station. After being dismantled by hand, the stuff is sold for a few thousand of yuan per ton."

"Usually, when the incinerator station accumulates a certain amount of waste, they call the private dealers who come over after office hours. After settling the price, the dealers transport the stuff to the markets at night," the local said.

Some 30 to 40 tons of single use syringes and intravenous drips are recycled at Shijiazhuangs industrial incinerators.

They charge the hospitals for the disposal of the waste, and then collect money from the dealers, leading to occasional disputes, according to one staff member, as some hospital staff would rather see the profits from the illegal trade going into their own pockets.

Blood could be seen on some of the materials and others contained various colored liquids.

Flies were buzzing around over everything, and the workers wore no protective clothing.

## Breaking Local Protectionism the Key

### Interview with a "boss" in the medical waste recycling business

*Liu has been involved in selling medical waste for two years at the plastic markets in Wangdu and Shuping, in Hebei Province.*

*When Xinhua reporters interviewed him, Liu said he had decided to quit the business, and hoped the information he had provided would help to put an end to the illegal trade.*

"Before this Chinese New Year, the medical waste was traded openly. Then officials came to inspect, saying the media had exposed the trade. To avoid trouble, people started conducting the business underground.

"Though there is a shortage at present, many trucks still arrive loaded with used disposable syringes and intravenous drip bags. The tighter the examination, the higher the price and the more money we can make.

"I can make at least 100 yuan per day and sometimes I can make up to a few thousand yuan.

"It is far from enough to only have a good relationship with the 'boss'. The most important thing is to establish a 'network' in the regulatory departments, such as local industrial and commercial bureaus and environmental protection organs. In that case, nobody can touch you.

"We dealers are not afraid of the county lead-

ers who come to 'inspect'. The officials from the city or the province are ones we are afraid of because we don't have 'connections' at that level.

"But, they can only control us for a short period of time. The county always has a final say.

"I have 'close friends' working at the county's industrial and commercial administration and the environmental protection organs. I often treat them to dinner and give them bribes. The friends take care of me, no matter how hard the situation is, for 'our common interests.'

"The medical waste dealings have existed for a long time. I think the reason lies in the 'local protectionism.'

"Taking the examination for an example, before the official at higher levels came to visit the market, we know they are coming two days in advance.

"Owing to the local protectionism, the regulatory departments can do nothing but let it go. In addition, the elimination of the illegal transaction might lessen their income.

"I think it is not difficult to break up the illegal trade in medical waste. The key is that the local government should have the determination to break the local protectionism."



By Zhao Pu

**“**I'm in my fifties now, but I feel like I've lived for 500 years,”

says Li Wei, sitting in the tearoom on the second floor of his private carving museum. “I pursue a high quality of life. And the most happy thing in life for me is to enrich myself.”

Li, 53 years of age, owns a carving museum filled with old stone and wood objects he has been collecting for forty years, and a hospice, the first in China, which has taken care of over 10,000 people since its opening in 1987.

These two disparate strands make a pair of parallel threads in Li's life.

## A man with a ‘carving complex’

At the east end of Liulichang Cultural Street stands a splendid two-floor building in traditional architectural style, with several pairs of “mendun” (stone carved “door guards” often seen at the entrance of courtyard houses). Delicate carvings can be found on almost every corner of the structure, the roof, windows, doors and walls.

Above the door, hangs a tablet that reads ‘Songtangzhai Folk Carving Museum.’ Inside, a Ming Dynasty woodcarving screen, called ‘Virtue Screen’ listing moral standards greets visitors. Behind it, dozens of mendun and extraordinary stone and wood carved objects furnish the room.

“I have a ‘carving complex,’” says Li. “I always keep an eye out for old carvings, and whenever I come across one, I add it to the pile in this museum.” Over the past 40 years, he has collected several hundred pairs of old mendun from all over the country.

Li's fascination with mendun stems from his childhood. A pair standing outside his family's home kept him company when he was a kid. At the age of eight, the house was demolished, but he insisted on keeping the mendun. That pair was the first treasure in his collection.

To enrich his mendun and carving collections, Li has spent much of his spare time wandering about old towns and small villages all over the country. His collection boasts some beautiful stone door roofs with exquisite carving from Shanxi and Anhui provinces.

Once in 1981, Li came to a village in which numerous buildings of the Ming and Qing Dynasties were preserved in Shanxi Province. Passing by a peasant's house, he was captivated by four pieces of stone carving on the gate of the compound. The gate was in a dilapidated state and two of the carvings seemed to be on the verge of falling from the gate.

He stepped into the open house, and told the women who lived there he would like to buy the four pieces of stone carving. The woman was surprised, “Do you mean those useless pieces of stone?” Li assured her of his intention. “Follow me, we have more in the backyard.” She led him to the pigsty behind the house. Li says the sight that greeted him is still painful to recall; dozens of beautiful stone carvings had been arranged to make a wall to keep those pigs in. It took him a long time to rescue them all from the sty. He bought 12 pieces from the women and lugged them one by one all the way back to the town railway station.

“This stuff is rubbish to others, but it is treasure in my eyes,” he smiles.

## A white lie inspired a career

The other line of his life centers around the hospice he opened in 1987. Li tells a touching story about the establishment of the Beijing Songtang Hospice, the first hospice in China.

Back in the 1960s, Li was sent to Inner Mongolia at the age of 17 as ‘an educated youth’ answering the call to live and work



Li guides foreign visitors touring Songtang Hospice

in the countryside. In a small village, he worked as a ‘barefoot doctor’, treating patients for free.

One of his regular patients was old ‘Teacher Zhang’ from the run-down local primary school. Zhang, formerly a university professor, had been exiled to the village as a ‘rightist’ during that era of turbulent political movement and persecution.

Li often went to care for Teacher Zhang, who suffered from a serious gastric disease. Just before he died, he told Li, “My grandma said to me when I was a little kid that nice people will go to heaven after they die, and bad people go to hell. I have the right to enter neither place, since I am called an ‘ox, ghost, snake and spirit.’” To comfort the old man, Li told him that he would talk to the commune

# Seeking A Rich Life

leaders, and ask them to “rehabilitate” him. Zhang was happy as a child and kept talking about his childhood and past experience.

But Li was stopped by his friends, who warned him that intervening in Zhang's case was too dangerous. On the following day, he visited Zhang again. He saw the expectation in the old man's sparkling eyes, and could not bring himself to admit he had failed to do as he had promised. On an impulse, he lied to his patient, telling him that the commune leaders had indeed rehabilitated him. Zhang died not long after, peacefully, with a smile still lingering on his face.

Since that moment, Li has imagined opening a hospital to take care of people in the last days of their lives. His wish came true in 1987. In the past 15 years, his hospice has looked after over 10,000 people.

## A young heart with great passion

“I'm 53 now, but I'm 25 in psychological sense,” smiles Li. His childish expressions and the way he laughs at his own stories certainly supports that claim. He shows a great passion for life and his career. He has met with many troubles along his way, collecting old stones and building the hospice. “None of them has scared me,” he says, “I'm a person fully capable to conquer any troubles.”

His passion and optimistic attitude always cast a beam of sunshine on his patients at the hospice. He treats every patient like an old friend, encouraging them to be brave in the last section of their journey of life. He sings old love songs

with them, read poems with them and reminds the things in their own life they have to be proud of.

He is frequently invited to address university students. “I love to be with young people, though most of my time is spent with my old friends at the hospice,” says Li. The major theme of his subject is ‘cherish your life’.

When asked what is the happiest thing for him, he answered without hesitation, “to enrich myself.” He has a broad interest in many things, philosophy, poetry, psychology, and music. Beside collecting mendun and carvings, stamp collecting was an early hobby. “I was among the early birds collecting stamps in China,” says Li, “and I put the money earned from the stamps toward the hospice and the museum”

“Life is not a radial, it's a line segment,” says Li, “The best way to enlarge it is to increase the width of the line, that's what I've been doing for years.”



This old carriage is a new item in Li's collection



Li at his carving museum



Li stands by part of his collection; a Qing Dynasty wood carving

Photos by Zhuang Jian



By Miao Yajie

A historian once said of the Summer Palace - it is like a grand theater, and only one among one hundred thousand spectators knows its true history; that it was Emperor Qianlong who created the precursor of the Summer Palace - Qingyi Garden. Only one among one hundred thousand people who come to the theater for a wonderful performance, really enjoy and fully understand the show, the rest just take a walk around the theater.

Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), the fourth emperor of the Qing Dynasty, is the longest living and one of the most admired emperors in Chinese history. Apart from engaging in numerous military exploits during his sixty-year-reign, one year less than that of his equally illustrious grandfather, the Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722), he was also an accomplished poet and aficionado of art and science. He instructed his officials to collect treasured paintings and calligraphy into the imperial court, enthusiastically adding his own inscriptions to the scrolls (often destroying the compositional balance in the process, as art historians have frequently bemoaned). However, his influence over the course of history during the 18th century is undeniable, and he is today affectionately portrayed on TV soaps as a wise and humorous patriarch.

To many people, the Summer Palace (Yiheyuan 颐和园) represents the corruption of Empress Dowager Cixi, who diverted funds intended to modernize the Chinese navy to constructing her own pleasure garden.

So what is Emperor Qianlong's connection with the Summer Palace?

#### Why Qingyi Garden was built

Emperor Qianlong listed two reasons for the building of Qingyi Garden (清漪园) in an article commemorating its completion. One was the practical measure of "regulating the waters," the other was to mark his mother's 60th birthday.

In 1744, after completing an expansion of Yuanmingyuan (圆明园), the imperial garden start-



A pavilion on Longevity Hill, and Kunming Lake

## Who Built the Summer Palace?

ed by Emperor Kangxi in 1709, Qianlong wrote that there would never again be a need for later generations to build a garden expending such a heavy budget and labor. Just six years later, however, in 1750, he started construction of Qingyi Garden.

Why did he go back on his words to do so? "Water regulation" and his mother's birthday were only part of his rationale. The real motivation was that by planning, designing and constructing a garden himself, he sought to create an eternal monument to illustrate his ruling philosophy, his talent, and to show off his achievements.

The structure of the garden, the style of the architecture, the location of the scenic spots, the content of the couplets and inscriptions all embody a certain aspect of Qianlong's philosophy. His generosity - unconventional and uninhibited, his concern for the country and the people, his desire to unify the country can all be found in the design.

#### How Qingyi Garden became the Summer Palace

Construction started on Qingyi



A portion of the funds Empress Dowager Cixi siphoned off the navy budget financed the unseaworthy, but grand marble boat.



The seventeen-arch bridge on Kunming Lake is the subject of countless postcards.

Photos by Yu Jia

Garden in 1750, the 15th year of Emperor Qianlong's reign, and was completed 15 years later. It was an unprecedented and unrepeatable model for a Chinese traditional garden. However 61 years after Qianlong's death, in 1860, the garden was burnt to the ground by British and French troops, along with Yuanmingyuan.

When the fires had finally burnt out and the smoke had dispersed, the vitality of the great empire of the Qing Dynasty had already been sapped.

After two changes of emperors, Empress Dowager Cixi took up her position behind the trembling throne in 1885. The following year, she ordered the reconstruction of Qingyi Garden, renaming it Yiheyuan, the Summer Palace. Foreign troops again looted the garden in 1900 and it was once again rebuilt in 1902. This is why Empress Dowager Cixi is often wrongly attributed to being the creator of the garden.

#### Differences between Qingyi Garden and the Summer Palace

The biggest difference be-

tween the original and the recreation can be attributed to the differences in the ways of thinking of Emperor Qianlong and Empress Dowager Cixi.

Qingyi means a place with beautiful lakes and hills, while Yihe means a place to enjoy one's old age.

For Emperor Qianlong, building Qingyi Garden was an intellectual endeavor, thus the arrangement of the garden was designed to be in harmony with the natural surroundings.

Though he was deeply fond of the garden, Qianlong never spent a night there. He kept his pledge of "going in the morning and coming back at noon," partly as a way of expunging the guilt he felt over his about-face on the construction of another garden.

For Empress Dowager Cixi however, the motive for building the Summer Palace was her personal pleasure. She divided the garden into several functional quarters, with her living quarters centered around the Hall of Benevolence and Longevity, the residential quarters centered around the Hall of Happiness and Longevity, and a service quarter centered around an extensive kitchen.

However Cixi's Summer Palace basically preserved the appearance of Qingyi Garden, not only in its formal resemblance, but also with a similarity in spirit. The fundamental features - the lake and three hills - were unchanged, only the architecture was renewed.

The "loyalty" of the Summer Palace to Qingyi Garden might be attributable to the following factors.

First, the destruction and reconstruction occurred within the space of 100 years, thus the "bones and flesh" of the original garden were able to be preserved.

Second, Cixi was not nearly as gifted as Qianlong; it was beyond her ability to come up with her own design, so she had to model her garden on the original.

Finally, despite her misappropriation of the navy budget, there were insufficient funds in the Qing treasury for a wholesale reconstruction of the garden at the beginning of the 20th century.

Consequently the Summer Palace, like good coming out of misfortune, a scene from the apogee of the Qing Dynasty was restored.

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# The Story of Darkness: An Epic of the Han Nationality?

## Extract

To tell it clearly but not completely  
The subtle mysteries of Heaven and Earth  
Above the nine skies and below the netherworld  
Telling the story of Chaos and Darkness  
Asking how the sun and moon reunite  
And how many years lasted the Darkness  
Till the human beings came into the world  
The Xuanhuang Forefather created the Chaos  
And the Chaos created Hero Pangu  
Nine floods and three-time the sky opened  
Then shone the lights of the Sun, the Moon and  
the Stars  
Fuxi, Nvwa created the human beings  
From whom coming the later generations  
Once starting never stop  
To sing the past and the future  
Singing the sky and the earth  
Singing the Sun, the Moon and Five Stars  
Singing Kunlun and Five Great Mountains  
Singing the hero separating Heaven from Earth  
Singing the rare and the strange  
Singing the Darkness and the Chaos

## Shennongjia

Shennongjia lies in Fangxian County, in western Hubei Province, covering an area of 3,250 square kilometres. Averaging 1,000 meters above sea level, it has six peaks over 3,000 meters high, and is known as "the roof of Central China." In its virgin forest can be discovered more than 2,000 species of wild plants, of which over 30 are classified as rare, and 500 species of wild animals, 20 of which are on the state protected list.

Besides this natural treasure trove, Shennongjia is also the home of an extraordinary forest culture. Linked with Sichuan of old by the Old Salt Path, it was the confluent region of the ancient Chu and Ba Cultures (today's Hubei and Hunan provinces, and Sichuan Province respectively). The densely forested mountains have long been refuges for people escaping from the chaos caused by wars in dynastic China.

## The Story of Darkness Combines Mythology and History

Zhou Baiyi, president of Changjiang Literature and Art Publishing House and editor of *The Story of Darkness* says it combines mythology and history, telling the stories from the beginning of the universe till the times of the Yan and Huang emperors, covering a hundred million years, a time span seldom seen in other works.

The book comprises the Beginning Song, the Song Head, the Black Heaven and Yellow Earth, the Darkness of Chaos, the Light of the Sun and the Moon and the Creation of the Universe and Human Beings.

The length of the new edition of "Darkness" is two times that of the limited edition of 1986, with verses such as the one describing the life of the Yan Emperor increasing from over 100 lines to over 200 lines, more vividly depicting his image. A wider range of characters, including Hun Dun, Lang Dang Zi, and Shi Nian, the elder brother of Yan Emperor also appear in this new edition.



Academics have long believed that the Han nationality had no epic. The newly published *The Story of Darkness*, collected and collated in the Shennongjia area of Hubei Province, might help refute that belief. *The Story of Darkness* is published by the Changjiang Literature and Art Publishing House.

## Discovery comes from collection of folk songs

Hu Chongjun, a staff member of the Shennongjia Forest Cultural Center has spent the last 20 years collecting and collating different versions of *The Story of Darkness*.

In 1982, Hu happened upon a hand-written copy of *The Story of Darkness* when he was collecting local folk songs in the town of Songbai. The 21-character manuscript seemed to be a book of local funeral songs, telling mythological stories of primeval times. In 1983, Shennongjia Forest Cultural Center compiled and printed *Shennongjia Folk Songs Collection*, which contained parts of *The Story of Darkness* collected by Hu. The book immediately attracted the attention of researchers on folk literature. At their encouragement, Hu started to collect more versions of *The Story of Darkness*. In May 1985, a limited edition of eight firsthand versions of *The Story of Darkness* compiled by Hu was issued by the Hubei Provincial Folk Writers and Artists Association. This publication caused disputes in academic circles as to whether *The Story of Darkness* actually constitutes an epic.

Liu Shouhua, a professor at the Chinese Culture Department of East China Normal University and Yuan Ke, an eminent scholar in Chinese mythology who died last year, both agreed that *The Story of Darkness* is a "mythological epic" of the Han nationality. But Yuan also suggested that the eight versions were not sufficient for a comprehensive collation of *The Story of Darkness* and more material needed to be collected and rearranged, without ruining the original flavor.

To collect more copies and fully present the value of *The Story of Darkness* to the world, Hu traveled around almost every corner of Shennongjia and surrounding areas, at his own expense. For more than ten years, he visited old funeral singers and traced any possible clues, experiencing all kinds of hardships. Eventually he had collected over 10,000 lines of manuscripts and librettos, among which over 5,000 lines were chosen for the new edition.

Professor Liu says in his preface to the new edition, "I have read most of the original versions and this edition is more rich in content, more exquisite in diction and more attractive to readers."

## Can The Story of Darkness Be Regarded as an Epic?

According to Professor Liu, *The Story of Darkness* can be regarded as the mythological epic of the Han nationality in a broad sense. "The word 'epic' comes from Greek and its traditional definition and criterion from Greek heroic epics, such as *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. For thousands of years, academics have insisted on this traditional definition, resulting in the belittling of the cultural creative ability of many countries. Since the 1980s, Chinese experts on folk literature and art have begun to break down the doctrine suggesting that among the minorities living in southeast China spread simple and unsophisticated 'mythological epics' or 'world-beginning epics,' which form a 'mythological epic group'. *The Story of Darkness* is similar to these works in view of its content, form, style and folk culture background, and thus belongs to the same type of literature," says Liu.

Chao Gejin, a research fellow of the Minority Literature Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences says there are two kinds of epics: the spoken epic and the written epic. The epics of different nationalities have different features but also certain standards in common. An epic should be of an "epic length," not just several lines of verse; should have a "lofty" and "sacred" nature, with the main characters often heroes or divinities and their glorious achievements making up the mainstay of the story; it should deal with the destiny of the whole nation or even "the world," not the happenings of daily life; and an epic is often a verse, but prose epics also exist. Chao also says, a nationality without its own epic could still be a great nationality, and a literary work can still be a great work even if it is not an epic. Labeling *The Story of Darkness* as an epic or not will not influence the judgment of its value.

(By Zhang Huan)



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# Young Directors Anxious to Try New Way



Picture from *The Missing Gun*

By Zhu Lin

Most of the films shown at the Tenth Film Festival for College Students are the young directors' debut works. At the festival's Seminar for Maiden Films, the young directors' words and interpretations of their films clearly revealed their concern to explore new directions.

Lu Chuan, director of one of the best local films produced in recent years, *The Missing Gun*, attracted a lot of interest. In his usual sharp manner, Lu stated that his goals were different to those of the older generation of filmmakers.

Responding to praise for how the plot played out before the denouement of *The Missing Gun*, Lu said, "The

course of watching a film is like going along the way to a great pyramid. Audiences nowadays want to see not only the pyramid at the end of the trip, but also the pretty view along the way. It's different from before."

Ma Rongrong, a graduate student majoring in film, compared Lu's film with *Stray Dog*, a film by legendary Japanese film maker Akira Kurosawa that shares a similar plotline to *The Missing Gun*. Lu answered, "I have a long way to go, to be sure. I have many things to cry out in my maiden work. But Akira Kurosawa had already been Akira Kurosawa, and he wasn't anxious to cry out anything through his work."

Teng Huatao, director of *One Hundred* also tries new approaches. He uses a four-minute long shot at the end of *One Hundred*. When questioned about his reason for doing so, he said, "I want to challenge the limits of the audiences' appreciation."

He doesn't care so much about the audience complaining, even when some wondered if his approach was wrong. He explained the course of seeking one's goal is just like running, "At first you run with a great passion, but the closer you draw to the goal, the less passion you have. At last, only momentum is working to keep you moving along."

The young directors appear as a group with pride and apprehension. As Lu Chuan said at the seminar, "What's most important is not the course of the work, but the fact that finally we've stood out among the crowd!"



Picture from *One Hundred*...

Photo by Sun Jianhua



## Japanese Dream Comes True on Chinese Stage

By Zhang Huan

"Dream ahead, I believe in the future; dream ahead, I will never hesitate..." The musical play *Dream Ahead* tells a story of how a young girl overcomes numerous difficulties and finally realizes her dream.

The musical, staged at the Century Theatre last Friday and Saturday, was created and performed by Japan's Star Musical Company. The story is based on the life of Star Musical Company choreographer, Nakagawa Kumi. Born in New York, Kumi discovered Broadway musicals as a teenager and fell in love with the idea of becoming a choreographer. To realize her dream, she had to overcome opposition by her father and discrimination within the industry.

"We should never lose sight of our dreams, no matter what the circumstances, that is the theme of our musical," said director Nishida Naoki. "Just like the story, the musical was not welcomed when it was first staged three years ago, but after revising the script and changing the director and performers, it finally succeeded in Japan."

The over-two-hour performance was well received by the Chinese audience, though the necessity of continually looking from stage to subtitles proved tiring for many. Audience member Zhang Yibing said, "It's the first time I have seen a musical. I'm impressed by the enthusiasm of the performers."

But there were also some criticisms. Many found the musical too noisy. "The performers seem to be shouting when they are speaking," said another audience member, Li Xia, "and sometimes their voices even became hoarse." Others complained about the design of the costumes and stage, saying they were "too simple, not beautiful enough."

Regardless of the negative comments, *Dream Ahead* created an opportunity for the Chinese audience and Japanese performers to get to know each other. As Nakagawa Kumi herself said at the end of the performance: "I have realized another dream of mine today."

## Expression Lighting up Stage

By Zhu Lin

The originality and energy of Expressions, performed by Australia's Modern Dance Company, caused a sensation among audiences during the fourth Beijing International Modern Dance Festival.

"The dance is wonderful," said Cui Li, a modern dance fan from the audience, "including the staging, lighting and the concept." Expressions performed Jigsaw and Alone Together last Friday and Saturday.



Photo by Cui Jun

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## Store Promotes Needlework Hobby

By Salinda

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Photos by Li Shuzhuan

"It is easy to learn the cross stitch," says Liu Hui, "a 6-year-old child can stitch pictures on the keychain by herself."

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By Li Dan

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## Wooden Wonders

By Salinda

All the paintings are treated against woodworm. The creator of these natural wood paintings has created a number of works in five years' seclusion and held personal exhibitions at the China Art Gallery.

Chen Baiqu's works express free and easy, natural modern aesthetic feelings. "Gao Shan Liu Shui" (高山流水), a painting that depicts the mystery of Guizhou province, is full of

power and grandeur. "Shen Niu" (神牛) shows a buffalo radiating vigor.

The clear feature of the paintings is that both colors and veins appear completely natural. Their textures and original color have not been altered.

**Add:** B1, FullLink Plaza (丰联广场), subway or 112, 109, 101 to Chaoyangmen.

**Open:** 9:30 am-8 pm.

**Tel:** 1391 0672470.



Photo by Li Shuzhuan

## The Other Side of Ladies Street

By Liang Hongling

Nu Ren Jie (女人街), which means "ladies street", has a reputation for fashionable clothes and other stylish stuff for young women. But *Beijing Today* does not want to buy any more clothes at the same old stores this week. Our reporter set off to find something out of the ordinary.

Zang Ba (藏芭)

Zang Ba has a strong Tibetan flavor with yak bone bracelets and neckbands, cowhide and sheepskin bags. The bracelets are not as loud as the neckbands, but pretty cool.

The manager said not all the goods come from Tibet. Notebooks and photo albums with leather covers, sheepskin towel boxes, pen-containers and ashtrays are also popular. The "leaf paint-

ings" placed in a wooden box are a traditional Pakistani handicraft. The picture on the leaf is usually of a young man and young woman.

Yi Guo Shou Cang (异国收藏)

The most striking objects here are brass articles from Islamic countries, including flasks, sculptures of deer and elephants. Patterns are engraved on the surface of these articles, popular in Xinjiang.

The store has a mixed character. The horsehair is frightening, with its middle section the lower leg of lamb. However, there are also silver earrings and bracelets fixed in frames.

**Add:** Nu Ren Jie (女人街), 9# Maizidian West Road (opposite the Lufthansa Shopping Center), Chaoyang District.

Zang Ba, Area A, XA4-8. Yi Guo Shou Cang, Area A, XA7-8.

Bracelets of Zang Ba



Photo by Li Chao

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A man of 42, with 19 years working experiences in trade companies in Hong Kong and Europe, fluent English and Cantonese, good computer skill, is now applying for jobs as Senior Business Manager and etc.  
Tel: 67685016

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# Residents Join Forces to Clean Up Fine Print

By Wang Dandan

Most developers refuse to sign them. And when they do sign, extra contracts rarely satisfy buyers.

For the first time in the city's real estate history, a group of more than 100 buyers have joined forces to negotiate an additional contract with their developer.

Two or three neighbors have combined in the past to negotiate with developers, but Meiran Dongli in Dingfuzhuang, Chaoyang district has seen a giant leap forward.

The group managed to come up with a hundred additional rules concerning shared areas, project quality, property rights certificates, the environment and discounts.

## Shared areas

The group required that detailed descriptions of shared areas should be printed in the additional contract, indicating its function (such as a boiler room or property management office). The developer agreed.

## Quality and facilities

The group showed interest in the quality of facilities, and sought more detailed descriptions of the standards. The developer promised to print the original plan of the project, the construction standards and all the standards of all the facilities in the additional contract.

## Property rights certificate

Nearly all the buyers worried about obtaining their property rights certificate as the certificate is only given when the developer pays the full fee for land use rights to the government.

The developer promised to help buyers obtain the certificate within 60 days of moving in. But the developer of course also required the buyers pay the fees for processing the certificate and provide the relevant documents.

## Price discount

The buyers group suggested Meiran should offer them all a bulk discount. This was turned down by the developer. Yang Meiling, general manager for the developer,



Pictures by Xie Feng

explained a good project should enjoy its market competitive price.

To keep its market edge, a project has to focus on quality, not rely on discounts, he said.

## Two months' work

These are only some of the rules the group negotiated with the developer.

Actually the negotiations went on for nearly two months. It was a good workout for the market, watched by many industry observers.

Oral promises were written into the addi-

tional contract. In negotiating, Yang said the developer sought help from Beijing customer service department, the sales department, maintenance, the design institute, calculating company and property management company. Thirty one percent of the buyers have since signed on the dotted line with the developer.

Xiang Lei, a member of the group, told *Beijing Today* he remains unsatisfied. "This additional contract is still not satisfactory compared with our standard, but it is better," said Xiang.

## Two Exhibitions Vie for Housing

By Liang Hongling

When two housing exhibitions with almost identical names open in almost identical places in the same city on the same day in direct competition with each other, the gimmicks can pretty desperate.

High-priced foreign models strutted outside the Beijing City Housing Exhibition, distributing leaflets and introductions to passers-by. Meanwhile at the Beijing Individual Housing Exhibition at the Military Museum in West Changan Avenue, an immense stage called "Future City" was decorated like a giant crystal ball. With its sleek high-tech visuals, visitors might think they had made a mistake and wandered into the Beijing high-tech week.

But the Beijing City Housing Exhibition was not to be outdone. In a conspicuous place in the exhibition hall of the Word Trade Center organizers had erected a mini-waterfall. In a cave behind the water was the exhibition's emblem.

The exhibitors at the east side exhibition opted for a more "traditional" style De Sheng Shi Jia and Xuan Yi Jia Yuan non-foreign approved projects decorated their stages like the corner of a traditional Chinese pavilion.

Both exhibitions attracted around 100 developers. In the west side exhibition, most were developers promoting low-price building projects. The scale and strength of the developers were not large.

In previous exhibitions, the second floor was packed. This time, there were only three exhibition tables on the second floor. Excitement reigned at this exhibition's newly established free trade zone and second hand building zone.

Meanwhile in the east, influential developers Zhu Jiang and Wu Yi Hua Yuan promoted projects in the exhibition in the World Trade Center.

## Green Space not for Sale



By Wang Dandan

Dear editor:

I bought a townhouse in the suburbs of Beijing. I've a garden out front of the house, and to expand, I want to buy up my neighbor's garden. Is it legal to do so? And does green space belong to shared areas or can an individual buy it?

Lucy

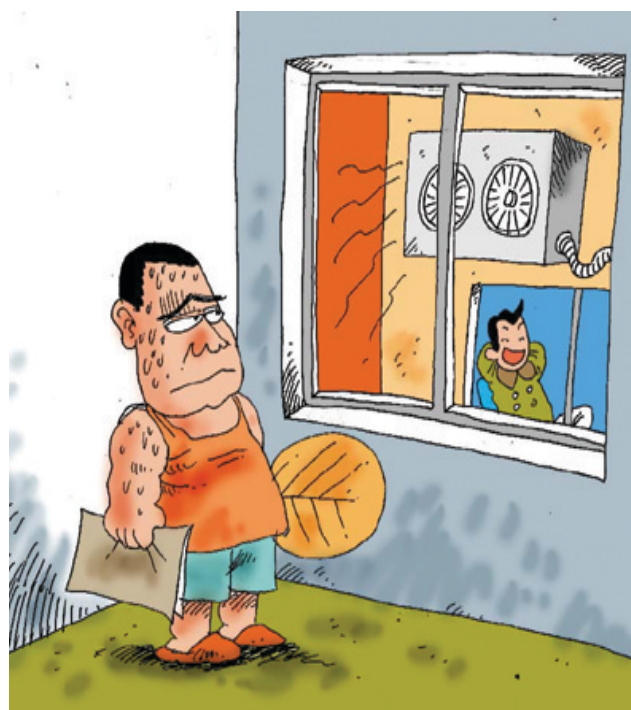
Dear Lucy:

Whether or not you can buy the green space of your neighbor depends on who owns the property rights certificate. The legality of land ownership is decided by this certificate.

But the certificate only registers the construction area of the house. The house is also sold by the construction area.

Green space is neither the construction area, nor the shared area. In fact, in China, the state owns it.

Some developers, on the basis of improving living quality, develop townhouses with gardens. But this does not mean the buyer necessarily owns the property rights to the garden, more likely the use rights. In such cases, you can't buy your neighbor's lawn.



## Who Owns Wall?

By Wang Dandan

A neighbor installed an air conditioner on the exterior wall of Mr. Bai. As the weather heats up, the air conditioner kicked in and began discharging hot air right outside Bai's window.

Bai can no longer open the window for fear of hot blasts of air invading his home.

When he turned to the property management company for help, they said they could do nothing. Bai wonders: is this wall my or my neighbor's wall?

"When my neighbor turns on the air-conditioner, it is just like someone uses a warm air blower to heat my house," said Bai.

"My neighbor didn't tell me before nor after he installed the conditioner."

When a reporter from *Beijing Today* contacted Bai's neighbor, he told the reporter that his neighbor had done the same thing to him and that's way he had to install his own conditioner on Bai's wall.

"What can I do? My neighbor occupied my wall and I've got no space left for my own conditioner," said Bai's neighbor.

Unlike corridors or steps - which are regulated as shared areas - the exterior wall is owned by the house owner, says Lei Qiping, a Beijing Deqin Law Firm lawyer.

Anyone who changes the decoration or personally installs anything on the wall must return the wall back to normal and if there is any loss, he should compensate the owner.

## Real Estate Round-up

Beijing

Apartment

## Market Swells

By Wang Dandan

There are 13 new projects put on sale last month, including four foreign-approved projects. With the conclusion of the first large housing exhibition held at the World Trade Center in April, the market is expanding quickly.

Chaoyang district has the bulk of them, especially around the East Third Ring Road and Fourth Ring Road. Most projects sell at 3,000-5,000 yuan per square meter.

## Glorious International Apartment

Add: 18 Gontixilu, Chaoyang district

Price: \$2,000 per square meter

Type: foreign-approved  
Tel: 6595-8888

## Xincheng Guoji

Add: Guandongdian, Chaoyang district

Price: 13,000 yuan per square meter

Type: foreign-approved  
Tel: 6591-9999/2345

## Lanjue Garden

Add: Huixinxijie, Chaoyang district

Price: 8,500 yuan per square meter

Type: foreign-approved  
Tel: 6481-3222/2223

## Milan Sky Apartment

Add: Xihuanbeilu, Beijing Economy Development Zone, Daxing county

Price: 4,400 yuan per square meter

Type: foreign-approved  
Tel: 6787-1167/68/69

## Shanshui Garden

Add: 300 meters south east of Huaweiqiao, Chaoyang district

Price: 6,600 yuan per square meter

Type: grade A apartment  
Tel: 6735-3300/3322/335

## Donghua Garden

Add: Niujie Beikou, Guang'anmen Neidajie, Xuan-

wu district

Price: 7,300 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 6358-7777/6358-9999

## Fugui Apartment

Add: Guangqumennei Dajie, Chongwen district

Price: 7,200 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 6712-7788

## Jinggang Garden

Add: Xidawanglu, Chaoyang district

Price: 6,600 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 8777-5888

## Lan T Apartment

Add: east from Sihuidongzhan, Chaoyang district

Price: 4,500 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 8578-2356-59

## Xinzhao Yayuan

Add: Wujianlou, South Third Ring Road, Fengtai district

Price: 4,300 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 6769-8899

## Jiahe Garden

Add: Weizikang, Fengtai district

Price: 4,000 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 6760-9900/9922

## Yashe Xiangqiao

Add: Shuangqiao, Chaoyang district

Price: 3,850 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 6577-5500

## Lingxiu Garden

Add: Jiugong, Daxing county

Price: 2,680 yuan per square meter

Type: apartment  
Tel: 8796-8266

## Banks Build Housing Loan Business in City

By Steve Jones

Instinctively, historically, culturally, Beijingers don't like them, but mortgages are still climbing in the wake of recent housing reforms.

Banks demand security. They need to know their customers. If mortgages are to really take off, modernized banking procedures are essential, says Professor He Liping, a participant in the national research program for the Ministry of Construction housing reform.

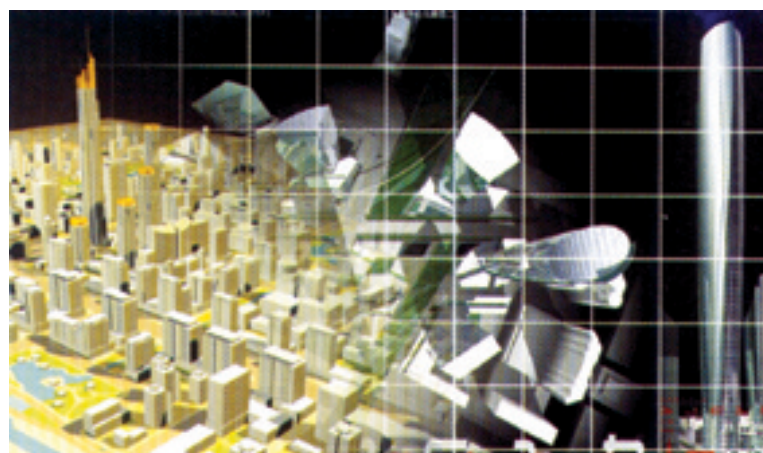
Foreign banks want to tap into China's corporate world. Foreign banks with modern banking expertise concentrate on the consumer loan market, which is not a bad thing considering its growth potential. For instance, the balance of housing loans reached 337.7 billion yuan in 2001, up 16.7 times when compared with the balance of 19 billion yuan at the end of 2000. The growth in housing loans in 2001 over 2000 was a whopping

140 percent.

The consumer loans market has been booming in the past 18 months with mortgage and consumer loans collectively accounting for 20 percent of new loans in 2001. Foreign banks' local currency business with Chinese individuals will not be permitted until 2005.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China recently announced more than 200 billion yuan in individual housing loans, claiming it is China's biggest mortgage lender.

But the China Construction Bank also claims to hold top spot among China's four state-owned commercial banks. As of March 31, this bank topped the list of housing loan issuers with a mortgage balance of over 370.8 billion yuan. Zhang Enzhao, president of the bank, recently said his bank will be the first of the big four to restructure and go public.



"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? With what can we help you? Our e-mail: housing@ynet.com Tel:6590-2522 Fax: 6590-2525



## Live Music

**An Ear to the Ground in May**

Two bands — Secondhand Roses and Sweet Child. From Heilongjiang Province, Secondhand Roses combines rock'n'roll with Er Ren Zhuan (a song-and-dance duet popular in Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning Provinces). It was established half a year ago. Its lead singer and guitarist Liang Long will perform both male and female Er Ren Zhuan roles. Founded in 1997, Sweet Child features British style rock'n'roll. Most of the members majored in art.



**Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 31, 10pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6501-8877 ext. 3032.

**Music at CD Cafe**

Brain Failure, The End of the World, Moppet **When:** May 26. Secondhand Roses, Sweet Child. **When:** May 31. **Where:** CD Cafe, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 6501-8877 ext. 3032.

**Music at the Get Lucky**

Modern Sky Music Festival. Iron Kite, DS010, Sound Fragments. **When:** May 25. Heavy Music Magazine organizes heavy rock metallic music festival. **When:** May 31. **Where:** Get Lucky Bar, east of the south gate of Duiwai Jingmao. **Tel:** 6429-9109.

**Band Tang Dynasty Live Performance**

Famous rock 'n' roll band in China. **Where:** Sweetness Club, 19 Anjialou, Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 31. **Tel:** 8456-2899.



## Food

**Wine Dinner**

Guest Chef Bryan Nagao, from Kokage in Hong Kong, presents his five-course gourmet dinner, where he cooks "Japanese food with a Western twist" in partnership with the wine houses of Taylors Port, Louis Jadot and Gaja.

**Where:** Aria Bar and Restaurant, China World Hotel. **When:** June 8, 7pm. **Price:** 588 yuan each person with no service charges. **Tel:** 6505-2266.

## Weather

**Friday May 24** Overcast to cloudy  
Max: 25C. Min: 17C.

**Saturday May 25**  
Clear to cloudy  
Max: 33C. Min: 18C.

**Sunday May 26**  
Cloudy to clear  
Max: 31C. Min: 17C.

**Monday May 27**  
Clear  
Max: 29C. Min: 15C.

**Tuesday May 28**  
Clear to cloudy  
Max: 31C. Min: 16C.

**Wednesday May 29**  
Cloudy  
Max: 30C. Min: 17C.

**Thursday May 30**  
Cloudy  
Max: 28C. Min: 16C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at [bjtodayinfo@ynet.com](mailto:bjtodayinfo@ynet.com) or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

## Concerts

**Folk Music**

By Central Minority Orchestra. The music is composed based on the theme of more than 10 Chinese paintings of Tang, Song, Ming and Qing dynasties. This combines the art of music and painting.

**Where:** Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, 1km east of Lufthansa Shopping City. **When:** June 1 and 2, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 60-600 yuan. **Tel:** 8528-2236.

**Light Chinese Music Concert**

By Chinese Music Orchestra of the China Opera House and Dance Ensemble. Conductor: Yang Chunlin. Special guest: Liu Bingyi. First violin: Wang Chunsheng.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** May 26, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-380 yuan. **Tel:** 6559-8285.

**Concert: Candle Song in Moonlight**

**Where:** China Children's Art Theater, 64 Donghuamen Dajie. **When:** May 24-25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 40-80 yuan. **Tel:** 6512-9689.



ater, 64 Donghuamen Dajie. **When:** May 24-25, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 40-80 yuan. **Tel:** 6512-9689.

## Exhibitions

**Past of Old Capital — Joint Exhibition of Chinese Paintings**

More than 60 works by Ma Haifang, Cun Chengxin. Ma's works features regular people's life in Beijing. Sun's focus — old quadrangles, memories of childhood.

**Where:** New Art Center, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** May 25-31, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6528-9103.

**Shining Tibet — Water & Ink Tibet Painting Exhibition**

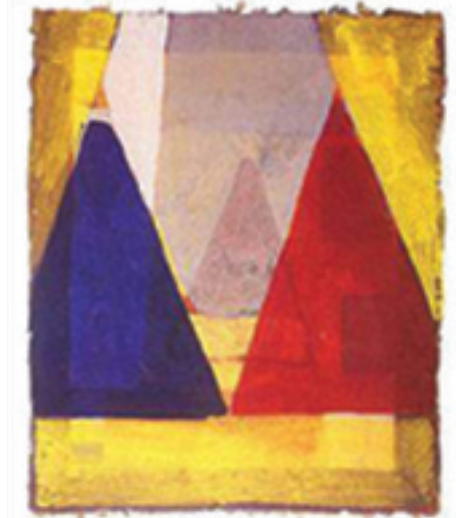
Works by Lin Tianxing. Featuring customs and sceneries of Tibet, mostly using two colors, red and yellow. **Where:** Creation Gallery, 4 Ritandonglu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 24-31, 10am-7pm. Opening ceremony: May 25, 3-6pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6506-7570.

**Huang Zhou Sketch Exhibition**

**Where:** Yan Huang Art Museum, 9 Hui-zhonglu, north of Yayuncun. **When:** till June 16. **Admission:** 5 yuan. **Tel:** 6491-2902.

**Dialog in Progress**

Works by Li Lei and Rolf A. Klunter. Organized by Guardian Online Auctions Co. Ltd. The second time the two artists jointly hold exhibition. Their works express a dialog between the east and the



west. Germany artist Klunter analyses eastern culture by abstract geometric figures. Li Lei's works feature simple colors showing tranquil and unconventional state of mind. **Where:** Beijing Guardian Online Art Gallery, 11F, Taihong Tower, 44 Chonwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District. **When:** May 30-June 19, 9am-6pm. **Web:** [www.guaweb.com](http://www.guaweb.com) **Tel:** 65058058 ext.104.



## Course

**Chinese Home-Style Cooking Class**

Cook healthy, tasty, and easy-to-prepare Chinese home-style food and savor the dishes. Detailed English narration.

**Where:** a local home, seven minutes' drive from the Lido Hotel and 15 minutes from the Lufthansa Center. **When:** Every Monday, 7-9pm (June term). **Fee:** 120 yuan each session, 480 yuan full term. (Dinner included). **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

## Activities

**African Cool Nights for a Hot & Steamy Summer Party**

The International Friendship Football Club's Africa United FC Massive, in alliance with the Deptford Crew & Black & White Color Productions, bring the coolest night in town. The 4 boys, DJ S-Press, DJ Albert, DJ Sinvula, & DJ 'C' bring a sound extravaganza of African Dance Hall, Zouk/Zaiko, Reggae, Soul, R&B, UK Garage, Hip Hop.

**Where:** Schillers 3, next to west gate of Chaoyang Park. **When:** June 1, 10pm till late. **Tel:** 1368 106 1172, 1368 112 5863 (English & Chinese), & 1390 110 9347 (English, Chinese & French).

**Young Professionals Happy Hour**

Three hundred free beers, other drinks and food. Lucky draw, DJ and special cocktail: Long Island iced tea for 25 yuan.

**Where:** Era, inside the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District (You can find Era by entering the Worker's Stadium main gate from the east. From there you



go along the south side until you reach entrance gate number 16). **When:** May 29, from 6:30pm. **Tel:** 6552-1786.

**Activities at China Nationalities Culture Park**

Tujia Minority's Traditional Sheba Festival; Hasake Minority: Felt Culture Exhibition; Plebeians: Our History, Our Roots.

**Where:** China Nationalities Culture Park, 1 Minzuyuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May, 8:30am-6pm. **Admission:** 90 yuan. **Tel:** 6206-3647.

**Qianmen & Ancient Observatory Tour**

Tour with an expert guide around Qianmen Gate and the ancient Observatory. Climb up Qianmen and listen to the history of the gates around downtown Beijing. Explore ancient Chinese astronomy at Jinguomen.

**Where:** meet at ticket kiosk of the Arrow Tower of Qianmen. **When:** May 25, 5-7pm. **Admission:** 20 yuan. **Tel:** 8462-2081, 1350 1035145.

## Movies

**Surveillance**

Directed by Huang Jianxin, Yang Yazhou, starring Feng Gong, Jiang Shan and Niu Zhenhua, 1996. A police story set in modern day China. Two undercover police agents are assigned to surveillance duty at a port. Ten days later, their superiors decide to close the case but forget that the agents are there and fail to inform them. They remain at their post, day after day, even though nothing ever happens. After a while, their private lives begin to spill over into their "official duties" and they experience pressure from all sides. This film won a prize at the 1997 Berlin Film Festival.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, 40 Liangmaqiaolu, 1km east of Lufthansa Center. **When:** May 31, 8pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6461-5318/9.

**Beijing Bicycle**

Directed by Wang Xiaoshuai, starring Zhou Xun. Cui Lin, Li Bin, Gao Yuanyuan. Language: Chinese with English subtitles. A boy from the countryside comes to town to work as express delivery cyclist. Unfortunately, his bike gets stolen and he tries every possible way to get it back. Li Bin buys the "lost" bike it at the secondhand market of Cui Lin. Many stories are born during their fight over the bike. This film

reminds people of the Italian neo-realist film Bicycle Thief.

**Where:** Cultural Office of the Italian Embassy, 2 Sanlitun Dong'erjie, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 30, 7pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 6532-2187.

**Dancer in the Dark**

Directed by Lars von Trier, 2000, starring Bjork, Catherine Deneuve, Siobhan Fallon.

**Where:** Firenze, beside the south gate of Ritan Park, go north from Yong'anli Subway Station. **When:** May 26. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 8526-6308.



## Parties

**Second Dance — Walking in the Summer's Electric Current**

Club night including DJ Yang Bin, will give its second performance. DJ Ben brings progressive house.

**Where:** Club Orange, 2, Alley 10, Xingfuyicun, 20 meters inside an

alley beside the Minsheng Bank of Gongti Beilu, opposite the north gate of Worker's Stadium. **When:** May 24, 10pm-6am. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 6415-7413.

**Back Club**

DJs Gao Hu, Dio, Mickey (Beijing), Usami (Australia), Boris (fresh from Berlin).

Bands: Dead Loop (Beijing), Plastic (dance music king), Clear & Huzi (lap-top musician), E Band (Beijing).

**Where:** Loft New Media Art Space, The Loft, 4 Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** every Friday & Saturday, after 9pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Tel:** 1301 1886112. **E-mail:** [lzh@msgp.org](mailto:lzh@msgp.org)

## Performances

**Dance Joint Performance**

By groups Bencao Studio, Dance Hall in March, Empty Dance Hall. **Where:** Beijing Modern Dance Troupe Experimental Theater. **When:** May 24, 25, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 6758-7161.

**Ballet: Red Detachment of Women**

**Where:** Tianqiao Theater, 33 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District. **When:** May 27-28, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 6317-0465.

**Russian State Great Circus China Tour**

This group's third China tour since 1956 and 1993. **Where:** Workers' Gym, Gontibeilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** May 31, 7:30pm, June 1, 2:30pm, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 6501-6655.

## Sports

**Latinos**

May 31, 6pm, Latin lounge, 9:30pm, live Colombian band. **Where:** Latinos, at the entrance to Chaoyang Park's bar Street, next to Big Easy. **Open:** 11am till late. **Tel:** 6507-9898.

**Football Matches**

**Where:** The Club Football Center, Red House Hotel, 10 Chunxiulu. **When:** May 24-26, three matches one day, around noon, 6pm and 9pm. **Tel:** 6417-0497.

**International Friendship Football Club**

Men, women and youth football every weekend. Anyone (from beginner to advanced level) is welcome to join a team or if you have a team, you are also welcome to join. Play on grass fields near Wangjing.



Leisurely Getaway

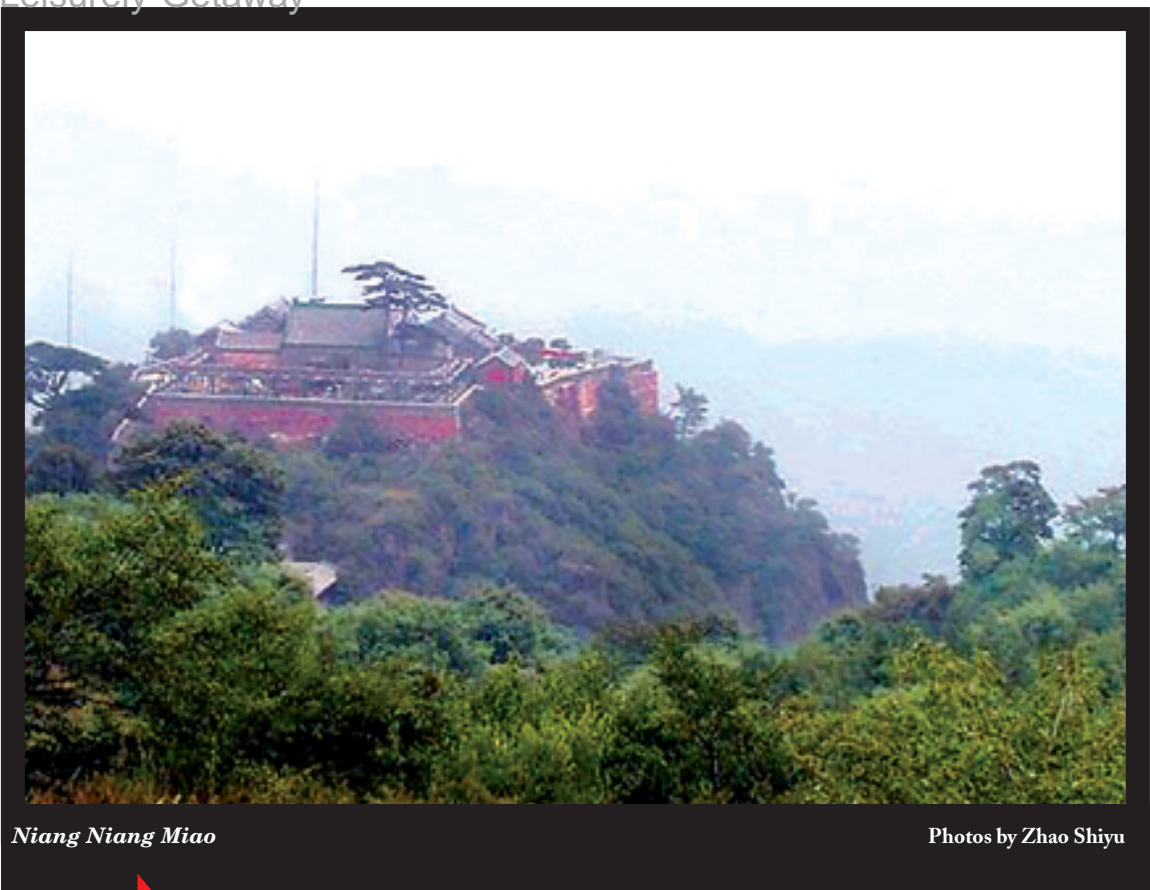
By Jiang Zhong

Empress Dowager Cixi liked nothing more than popping over to visit the Niang Niang Miao (娘娘庙 Goddess Temple) on the western outskirts of Beijing, where she offered incense.

To please their potentate, the eunuchs Liu Chengyin and An Dehai decided to fix up the muddy old 'incense path' to the temple.

In principle, this might not seem so bad. But in 1892, they spent one tenth of the state's annual revenue on construction.

Thus the 20-kilometer stretch of road became known to Chinese as the Gold Road (金阶 Jin Jie). In fact half the cash for road building went straight into the bank accounts of the two faithful, loyal and enterprising eunuchs.



# Rose Valley Rewards Pilgrims and Hikers

The usual suspects and certain troublemakers seeking to disrupt social stability at the time pointed out that China perhaps had other more pressing priorities - like staving off famine, for example, or an invasion by foreign imperial powers.

When the Japanese invaded in the 1930s, 100,000 worshippers were offering incense annually along this road. The imperial army raised the temple in 1937, but worshippers continued to visit the ruins via this road to pray for blessings.

## Witness to change

Xu Shaofa, 77, was a witness to the religious fever.

"Eight *cha peng* (tea shelters) lined the road, offering worshippers a place for a break. However, no pilgrim would accept a seat at the shelter. Most drank the tea on bended knees."

"The tea shelters also offered a special service. Some worshippers disguised themselves as horses or donkeys by wearing animal masks. They would ask employees of the tea shelters to whip them on to the temple.

In this way, the walkers sought forgiveness from the gods for their family members' sins. "According to the doctrines of Chinese religion, sinners are reincarnated as animals — horses, donkeys, pigs or dogs after death."

Ren Yu spent his childhood 40 years ago at 47th Middle School, right beside the incense road.

"I still remember the little bells tinkling on a summer's day," he said. "A group of donkeys and their tinkling bells were passing by the playground.

"The strange rhythms attracted us schoolchildren and we rushed to the windows to admire the spectacular 'parade'. We saw each of these 20 or so donkeys carried two bags."

Petals fell from the bags leaving a colorful trail along the road.

"The teacher tried in vain to order us back to our seats. Finally she gave up and joined in watching the donkeys with us."

But this teacher was not to be so easily defeated.

"She told us about the Rose Valley on the other side of the mountain behind the school. The roses there had thick petals and subtle fragrances.

"The essence refined from roses for perfume, she said, was more expensive than gold. And for us at that time, gold was second to nothing and so this produced loud gasps of admiration."

Next she moved on to Bulgaria.

"She named this country as having the largest rose output. We had often seen pictures of the scenery of Eastern European Communist countries during those days. So the Rose Valley became sort of synonymous with our Eastern European partners in our minds.

"The teacher added that Rose

Valley was about 20 kilometers away, an incredibly long distance to us."

## Expedition team

Ren Yu and his two companions resolved to visit their beautiful "Eastern Europe". They finally set off on an expedition, of course without telling their parents or anyone in the school.

"We walked on the incense road with cobblestones polished by the worshippers' heavy tread," said Ren. "I remember listening to leaves rustling in the wind."

They walked four hours before finally reaching the village of Jian Gou (涧沟) at the foot of the Miao Feng (妙峰 Strange Peak) Mountain. They could see no roses at all and they didn't want to continue because of hunger.

"A local peasant escorted us home on his way to the vegetable market on the other side of the mountain we had just come over," said Ren. "He had to travel 50 kilometers for some cabbages."

The peasant told them the ruins of Niang Niang Miao were still another two kilometers from the village, and Rose Valley was beside the temple. "We were so disappointed," said Ren. "But the temptation of a meal won this time."

Ren completed the last two miles in 1988, some 20 years later. His stomach ached from the exhausting 40-kilometer hike.

"I got to the ruins of the temple to find reconstruction had just begun. The old man who kept an eye on the construction site said Song Zi Niangniang (goddess of childbirth) was worshiped here by most worshippers. "When I returned to the city, I began showing off about my hiking experience to my friends."

Since then, Ren has kept returning to Niang Niang Miao once a week.

Some of his friends followed suit.

"They are even more insistent than me. I found the Rose Garden. In fact, the whole Miao Feng Mountain has roses. In the busy season, June this year, the rose growers get up at 4 o'clock in the morning to pick the blossoms. They can collect 30 kilograms of roses daily."

But the journey, not getting there, gives Ren greater joy.

"Old pine trees line the incense road. Each season here boasts the most beautiful scenery. In June when the roses blossom, the singing of cuckoos and noise of woodpeckers escort me all the way."

"Wing-necked pheasant, roe deer and badgers also occasionally come out to meet tourists."

Deer traps used to be found along the route five years ago.

"But today catching roe deer is forbidden. But specimens of the animal can still be found in the market priced around 100 yuan."

## Tea shelter

A tea shelter named Jin Xian An (金仙庵) still stands by the road.

"One of Empress Dowager Cixi's younger sisters left home and become a nun here," he said.

"The arduous hike has healed my friends' diseases of the legs and bowels."

"Some say this is the power of the gods. Maybe. Students from Peking University have made even more effort. Bags of bricks weighing 35 pounds are carried by the students along the hiking route."

## Where is Rose Valley?

On the side of Miao Feng Mountain

## Tips:

- Hiking to the temple takes four hours; Jian Gou Village at the foot of the Miao Feng Mountain supplies meals and accommodation.

- Early June is the right time for a rose walk at Miao Feng Mountain.

- Cookies, wines and jam made of roses are available.

- Niang Niang Miao standing atop Miao Feng Mountain, the terminal of the incense road hike, is a must. The temple fair and traditional religious rites are held May 12-26.

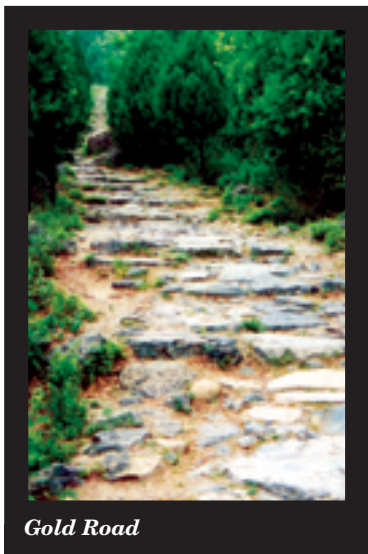
- A cherry picking festival is also held in May and June.

**Admission:** 25 yuan

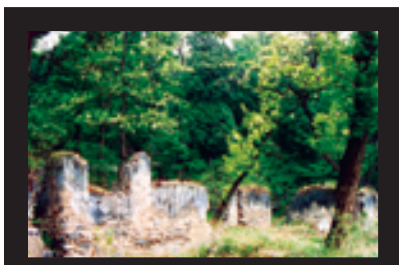
**Getting to the starting point of the incense road:**

Bus 346 from the Summer Palace to Bei An He (北安河). Walk west for 20 minutes along the path towards Bei An He Village until the entrance to Jiu Feng (麓峰). A railway runs before the entrance. Beside the railway, a narrow path leads

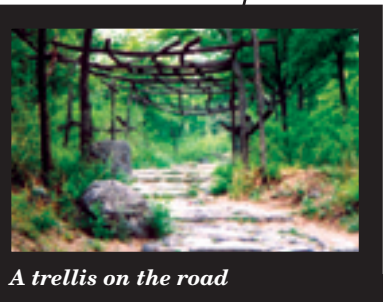
to the entrance to Yang Tai Shan (阳台山), the starting point of the hiking. (Walk for three minutes to the entrance of Yang Tai Shan)



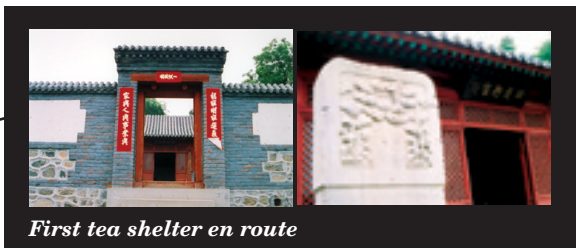
Gold Road



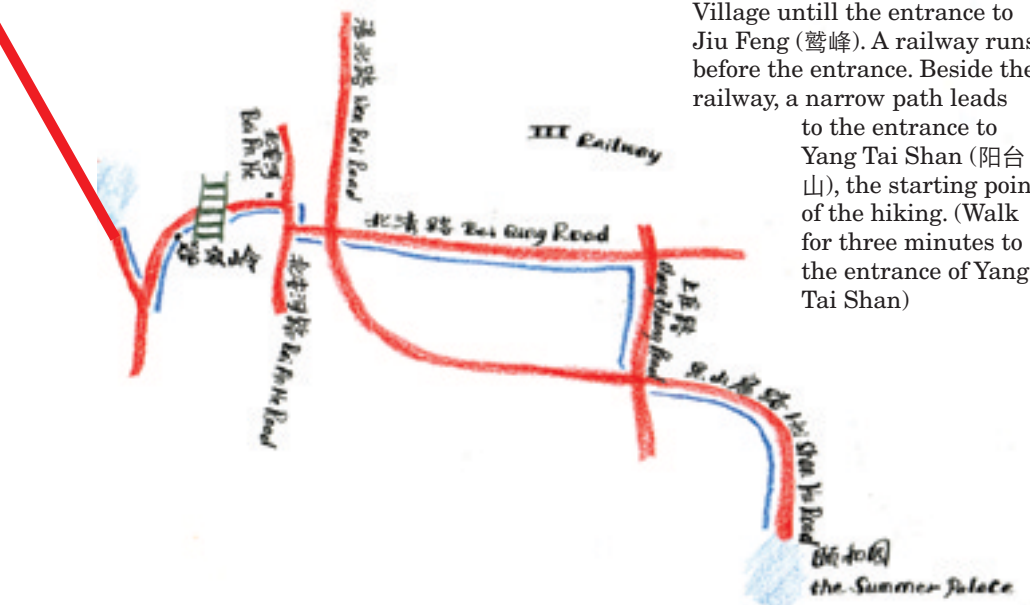
Ruins of Jin Xian An



A trellis on the road



First tea shelter en route



# Minority Isolated from World

By Jiang Zhong

People of the Miao and Yi ethnic minorities live on opposite sides of the Qing Shui River (清水河) in Pu Zhe Hei Village (普者黑村).

Some 20 Miao families here drink local spring water. The vegetables they grow, sheep and cattle they feed and fish and mussels they catch have sustained their lifestyle over centuries.

The Yi village here has a larger population of 3,800 people, about 900 families. The Xiang Bu Dao (Beyond Expectation) Restaurant here supplies local liquor derived from corn.

Lotus root, fish caught in the river, beancurd, red pepper jam and the corn liquor boast a traditional Yi meal.

Rice here is processed in wooden



Sani Residences

vessels and has a slightly different flavor. The talkative owner Li Qun can tell stories about local customs.

The Sani minority, a branch of the Yi, live on the opposite side of Qing Shui River. Sani people worship fierce beasts, cattle and bamboo. Phallicism

also prevails here.

The Torch Festival on June 24 is one of the most important festivals of the Yi people. On that night, local people dance with torches in hand.

Where: Pu Zhe Hei lies 280 kilometers southeast of Kunming, capital city of Yunnan. Getting there: Bus from Kunming heading for Bei Qiu stop at the village. (7 hours, 45 yuan) Admittance for attractions at Pu Zhe Hei: Five yuan for Xian Ren Dong (God Cave); 14 yuan for boat tour of Qing Shui River; 5 yuan for riding a horse.

## Tips:

- Restaurants here all supply accommodation. The hotel outside the Sani village is an alternative.

- Differences in temperature create

Dawn at Pu Zhe Hei



striking contrasts here. Sunproof accessories, raincoat, flashlight and thick clothes are needed.

- Stone hills, the river, traditional

residences, fields, lotus flower, wild ducks, sunrise and sunset and the local customs here all offer opportunities for photo album.